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# Daily Report

## MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I. CHINA DAILY REPORT — Contents unchanged

II. EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT — Contents unchanged

III. SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT — Contents unchanged

IV. EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT — Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged

V. NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT — Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include:

- Middle East & South Asia Review
- Inter-Arab Affairs
- Islamic Affairs
- Palestinian Affairs
- OPEC Affairs
- South Asian Regional Affairs
- Arab Africa
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  - Bangladesh
  - India
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  - Maldives
  - Nepal & Bhutan
  - Pakistan
  - Sri Lanka

VI. LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT — Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MAY 1987

## Gulf War

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn admitted that Iraqi warplanes were responsible for the "tragic incident which afflicted the U.S. frigate *Stark*" and expressed his "deep sorrow," in a message addressed to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and carried by INA. Terming the attack "unintentional," Saddam Husayn hoped that "cordial" U.S.-Iraqi relations would not be affected. The incident "reaffirms the need to join efforts to end this war," the Iraqi president declared, noting his country's "keen interest" in U.S. efforts in the UN Security Council. The Iraqi president also asked President Reagan to convey his "deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims."

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told a meeting of foreign diplomats that the U.S. presence in the Gulf is the "biggest factor" contributing to increased tension in the area, Tehran radio reported. "By launching this so-called inadvertent attack" on the U.S. frigate, Iraq is encouraging the superpowers to build up their presence in the region thereby heightening the tension and possibly involving other countries in the conflict, Velayati charged. A Tehran radio commentary speculated that Iraq was responsible for the mine explosion that damaged the Soviet tanker *Marshal Chuykov* in an effort to secure more aid for its "crumbling regime." The commentary also accused the supporters of the Iraqi Government of waging an "indirect battle against Islam." Moscow World Service commentator Aleksandr Pogodin called attention to the "complexity and explosive character" of the situation in the Gulf and urged an end to "outside interference," especially the increased U.S. military presence. Stressing the importance of safeguarding the region's sea lanes, Pogodin reiterated the USSR's "great hopes" for a peaceful resolution of the issue.

In more recent action, Iraq troops suffered "scores" of casualties when Iranian naval units attacked the Al-Umayah oil platform 18 May, IRNA reported. According to a Lloyds report cited by INA, an Iranian ship attacked a Liberian tanker en route to Kuwait. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that 18 Iranian boats were destroyed when Iraqi seamen repelled an attack on Al-'Amiq port.

In diplomatic activity, UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received the Iraqi interior minister who delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn, INA reported.

## Lebanon

*Israeli Raid* — Israeli warplanes attacked PLO positions near Sidon that were being used for "terrorist training," Jerusalem radio reported. The raid left one dead and one injured in Al-Miyah wa Miyah, according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

*Political Consultations* — In remarks cited by Beirut radio, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, noted that the "presidential team" is reviewing power-sharing options under discussion at the Lebanese-Syrian talks in Damascus. Kan'an, who started a series of meetings with West Beirut officials with a visit to Prime Minister Rashid Karami, also commented on the security situation. He disclosed that as a result of investigations, a "disaffected" man named Abu Sa'id was arrested for ordering various incidents in West Beirut. "He is one of the Abus who has widely abused this country," Kan'an declared, adding that the detainee had set up a criminal network for his own personal benefit after having been "stripped of his political post." The general described the 17 May assassination of Communist Party official Hasan Hamdan as a "painful shock" and reiterated the Syrian policy to show no mercy to those who violate the city's security.

## Palestinian Affairs

PFLP officials in Damascus said the statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee at the end of its 17 May session in Tunis violates the recent PNC resolutions by calling for better relations with Egypt, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The statement, broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, reiterated the PLO's emphasis on Arab solidarity and good relations with Syria, Egypt, and Libya. In a related development, the Fatah-Revolutionary Council accused PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat of trying to sow discord among the Palestinian factions, thereby paving the way for his participation in an international conference on the Middle East, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

## Israel

In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told reporters that after his talks in the United States, it is even clearer that the U.S. Administration firmly opposes any international conference on the Middle East having "coercive authority." While Peres "welcomed" U.S efforts to bring about a conference, he reiterated that the so-called Reagan Plan is "unacceptable." Peres had previously told the station that his 90-minute meeting with the Soviet ambassador to the United States was held "in an excellent atmosphere," adding that he asked the USSR to "detail" its position on an international conference.

## PDRY-USSR

Cooperation talks between delegations led by Defense Minister Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad and his Soviet counterpart Sergey Sokolov began in Moscow 16 May, Aden radio reported.

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### 'Sources' Predict Al-Asad-Husayn Talks 'Soon'

*LD181504 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Kuwait, 18 May (KUNA) — Arab diplomatic sources here today predicted that a summit would take place very soon between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The sources, which asked not to be identified, noted that several other meetings will be held between Syrian and Iraqi officials in the next few days to prepare for the presidential summit. However, they could not say when or where these sessions would take place.

### Arab 'Reconciliation Conference' Planned

*JN181927 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 May 87 p 1*

[Text] Amman — A responsible Jordanian source has said that King Husayn's recent tours of Arab capitals, including his visits to Cairo, Baghdad, and Damascus were not simply ceremonial; they were designed to permit a discussion of the latest developments in the Arab world, particularly those related to the resolutions of the recent PNC session, the subsequent rift between Egypt and the PLO, and the abrogation of the February agreement between Jordan and the PLO.

The source added that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn convinced the Jordanian monarch and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to approve a reconciliation conference in Baghdad, which will be attended by the parties involved in these events. The source said this reconciliation conference will be held immediately after 'Id al-Fitr [28-29 May]. The same source noted that Iraq and the Saudis were also working on this matter. He said President Saddam Husayn's special envoy, the Iraqi minister of culture and information, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal will make a move in this direction in the next few hours.

The source said PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told Iraqi leaders he is ready to reconsider the form of relations between Jordan and the Palestinians and to help promote them. In addition, 'Arafat said he was prepared to take a second look at relations with Egypt as well, and the question of an international conference, which now enjoys the approval of Europe and the Soviet Union. According to the Jordanian official, the United States has also agreed to it in principle.

Despite this, a Palestinian source in Amman refused to confirm or deny these reports. However, sources close to the PFLP and DFLP have asserted that 'Arafat's position on these developments will set the tone for inter-Palestinian relations. These sources added that if 'Arafat takes this step, it will lead to a final break between him and a number of Palestinian groups.

An active Arab political movement has begun in the past 2 weeks to implement three plans for reconciliation, understanding, and a definition of common Arab priorities. The important meeting for the first plan was the Moroccan-Algerian-Saudi summit, which resulted in a reconciliation between Algiers and Rabat and heralds an open diplomatic truce regarding the desert war.

The second reconciliation plan, which has not yet come to fruition, involves meetings between Syrians and Iraqis. Although there have been few reports about these meetings, available information is cause for some optimism based on an assessment of work by Jordan and the Soviet Union, as well as mediation by the Saudis.

The third plan is for reconciliation between Iraq and Libya, which now seems possible, especially after the recent announcement of Libya's stand on the Gulf war.

Amid these developments, political observers in Amman believe Tel Aviv is more convinced than ever that Arab leaders see no real change in Israeli policy despite all the political maneuvers and differences between the two parties in the Israeli coalition government. These observers point out that this concentration on attaining Arab reconciliation stems from a common realization of the true way to pressure both Tel Aviv and Washington. It is also the result of efforts to achieve a unified stand tackling the question of an international conference for a regional settlement.

### U.S. Warned Not To Extradite Palestinian

*NC180914 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 12 May 87 p 7*

[Text] In a statement issued yesterday in Beirut, the Fatah Movement-Revolutionary Council warned the United States not to extradite the Palestinian Mahmud al-'Abd Ahmad to Israel "under any circumstances, regardless of any legal pretext or agreement used as a justification to hunt down peaceful citizens and fighters."

The Palestinian group also criticized Venezuela for handing the Palestinian over to American officials, warning those countries "that allow their security and judicial apparatus to become a cheap instrument in the hands of the FBI, the CIA, or the Mossad."

### PLO Executive Committee Statement on PNC Session

*JN182051 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 18 May 87*

["Text" of statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee at the end of its meetings in Tunis on 17 May — read by announcer]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee, in a series of intensive meetings 13-16 May 1987, reviewed the results of the 18th PNC session and their repercussions on the Palestinian scene and on Arab and international fora. The Executive Committee also discussed means and methods of implementing PNC resolutions and its future plan of action to enact these resolutions in all areas.

The Executive Committee expressed great pride in the Palestinian unity which was achieved in response to the will of our masses inside and outside the occupied territories. This unity is an expression of their ambition and determination to continue the struggle on the basis of national unity so as to achieve the following national rights: the right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of an independent national state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The PLO Executive Committee has sensed the joy and welcome with which our Palestinian and Arab masses greeted the results of the 18th PNC session hosted by fraternal Algeria. Therefore, it reaffirms its unswerving determination to safeguard and protect national unity from all possible attempts to sow suspicion, sabotage, or conspiracy. In this respect, the PLO relies on the Palestinian, Arab, and friendly shield which rallies around the PLO and the Palestinian revolution.

From the premise of the great momentum resulting from the Algiers session, the Executive Committe eexpresses pride in the steadfastness of our masses in the occupied homeland, in their heroic confrontation of occupation through the protracted popular upheaval against Zionist occupation, tyranny, and terrorism, and in their complete rallying around the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. The Executive Committee also affirms the PLO's determination to continue and escalate the struggle in all forms in our occupied homeland against the Zionist enemy. It also vows to oppose the measures of repression, terrorism, and settlement it is carrying out against our Palestinian people.

The PLO Executive Committee paid special attention to the Palestinian state of affairs in Lebanon. It reaffirms the contents of the 18th PNC resolution in this respect. Further, it condemns the continued Zionist aggression and air raids and sea attacks against our masses in Lebanon and against our fraternal Lebanese people to subjugate the Palestinians' will. It also greets the steadfastness, heroism, and sacrifices of our people in the camps of steadfastness in Lebanon. While doing all this, the PLO Executive Committee decided to provide all the elements of national, political, and social steadfastness it can provide for the Palestinian masses in Lebanon.

In this regard, the Executive Committee expresses pride in the stands of the fraternal Lebanese people and their nationalist movement in the joint struggle against Zionist aggression and for the independence, freedom, and unity of the Lebanese people and territory.

On the Arab situation, the Executive Committee deeply delved into the issue of Palestinian relations with the Arab states. It emphasized the importance of efforts to restore Arab solidarity on the basis of commitment to the inalienable Palestinian people's rights and adherence to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Another condition for restoring Arab solidarity is participation by the PLO in an international conference on equal footing with other parties concerned, based on the Arab summit resolutions and joint Arab action documents and in order to liberate the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

Based on these principles, which constitute a foundation for Palestinian-Arab relations, the PLO Executive Committee decided to form committees to follow up relations with the fraternal Arab states. The goal of these committees is to place these relations within their correct pan-Arab context, and provide the necessary conditions for holding an Arab summit conference which would be able to face the dangers besetting the Arab nation and its central cause of Palestine.

In this regard, the PLO Executive Committee considered the issue of relations between the PLO and fraternal Syria. The Executive Committee believes that on the basis of what the PNC has achieved in terms of achieving national unity, all obstacles hampering the establishment of brotherly relations with Syria, based on equality, mutual respect, and the struggle against the common enemy, have been removed. From this premise, the Executive Committee extends its hand to fraternal Syria and calls for abandoning differences and turning over a new leaf to serve the aspirations and interests of our fraternal peoples and the interests of joint pan-Arab struggle. For its part, the Executive Committee formed a committee to follow up relations with Syria.

The Executive Committee examined the issue of Palestinian-Libyan relations. It gave high praise to positive developments in this relationship and the role of the Libyan Jamahiriyah and its leader, brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in achieving unity and convening the PNC session, and Libya's recent measures to reactivate PLO offices in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Out of its desire to develop and bolster struggle relations with fraternal Libya, the Executive Committee decided to send a delegation of its members to visit the Jamahiriyah for this purpose.

The Executive Committee discussed the latest developments in relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt in light of the resolutions of the 18th PNC session and the subsequent incidents involving the PLO offices in Egypt. The Executive Committee's is pained by these unexpected measures. Nevertheless, it affirms its strong appreciation of the role of Egypt and its president and Egypt's sacrifices in defending the Palestinian people and their national cause, and in defending pan-Arab issues with the aim of liberating occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and restoring the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights.

On the basis of these firm facts, the Executive Committee established a committee under its chairman to follow up relations with fraternal Egypt. The goal of this committee is to tackle these relations while adhering to the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including their right to repatriation, their right to self-determinaton, and their right to establish an independent national state. The committee will also reflect a commitment to the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative and its participation in an international conference on an equal footing with other concerned parties.

The Executive Committee reviewed the Iran-Iraq war in light of the PNC's resolution on the war, which contains the following elements: In this conflict, the Iraqi Army is defending the eastern flank of our Arab nation. The continuation of this war poses a danger to the safety, security, and integrity of the Arab territory in Iraq and the Gulf. The war is also a threat to pan-Arab security and world peace. Arab and Islamic resources are being wasted in this war away from the main battlefield against the Zionist enemy. The Executive Committee endorses the PNC's resolution in this respect and will do all it can through cooperation with the Arab brothers and also on the Islamic and international levels to stop this war.

The Executive Committee affirms its rejection of all separate and partial solutions and condemns the suspect moves by the U.S.

Administration and Israel through collusion with other parties in the region. The U.S., Israel and other parties do so in order to enforce solutions which ignore the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights and the PLO and seek to strike at Palestinian representation in order to carry out separate deals. While reiterating this, the Executive Committee supports the international conference for peace in the Middle East within the framework and under the supervision of the United Nations and with the participation of the permanent member states of the Security Council and the parties to the dispute in the region, including the PLO, on an equal footing with the other parties. The PLO affirms that it is essential for the conference to have the powers that enable it to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. It also supports the proposal to form a preparatory committee for this conference. For its part, the PLO will unify and stimulate Arab and friendly stands on the idea of the international conference which is currently enjoying worldwide support.

The Executive Committee also studied international reactions to the 18th PNC session and noted that large welcome and wide support was accorded to the Council's resolutions by friendly states and forces in the world. This enhances the status of the PLO in the international community and increases prospects for additional support for the Palestinian people's rights, just struggle, and national liberation movement — the PLO.

The forces hostile to our people and their just rights, which are represented by world imperialism — particularly U.S. imperialism and Israel — interpreted the PNC convocation and its resolutions as a strong blow to their plans to isolate, strike at, and weaken the PLO. Therefore, these hostile forces have escalated their campaign against our people and the PLO. This escalation was represented in the increased terrorism and the devastating raids which Israel carries out against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory and the Lebanese camps. This escalation was also represented by the fierce campaign the United States is launching against the PLO with the objective of distorting its image, isolating it, and preventing its participation in the international conference. Within this framework falls moves by some in the U.S. Congress to close the Palestinian information office in Washington. This reveals the biased U.S. stand and shows its consequences for the regional peace process.

While denouncing this U.S.-Zionist terrorism against our people, the PLO, and against the PLO offices which operate in the United States in accordance with U.S. laws, and due to the fact that the PLO is a UN member, the Executive Committee urges the world public to denounce and condemn these stands which are adopted by the U.S. Administration and Israel. It also calls on world public opinion to be aware of the evil objectives of this unjust campaign against the PLO, and not to respond to instigations against the PLO and the Palestinian people. While reiterating the PNC resolutions denouncing all forms of terrorism, particularly against unarmed civilians, the PLO also denounces the official terrorism of the United States and Israel.

The Executive Committee also discussed the issue of promoting its relations with world liberation movement's forces and the socialist states. While emphasizing the recent PNC resolutions in this regard, it will seek to bolster relations with the socialist bloc states, foremost of which is the USSR; with the PRC; with all the forces of the world's national liberation movement, particularly in Asia and Africa, foremost of which are the African confrontation states, the Namibian people, and the South African people; and with the Latin and Central American peoples and states. The PLO Executive Committee will also continue its efforts to promote its relations with the Islamic, African, and Nonaligned states.

At the end of its meetings, the Executive Committe expressed its thanks and deep appreciation to fraternal Algeria and President Chadli Bendjedid for their fraternal efforts and care for our national dialogue and the PNC. Their efforts and care played an important role in realizing the great achievement represented by convening the 18th PNC session. The PLO Executive Committee also expressed thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the UAE, the other Gulf states, the two parts of fraternal Yemen, Sudan, and the other Arab states for their support for the PLO, the Palestinian people, and their national cause on all levels. The Executive Committee expressed special appreciation to fraternal Tunis and President Habib Bourguiba for their care for the PLO and the Palestinian people.

The Executive Committee pledges to the masses of our people inside and outside our occupied territory to pursue struggle together to achieve our inalienable national rights until the flag of our evolution is hoisted over Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state.

### PFLP Criticizes Egypt Clause

*JN181830 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] In Damascus, the PFLP has said the statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee yesterday at the end of its meetings in Tunis contains a violation of the resolutions adopted by the recent PNC session in Algiers. The group said the offending paragraph calls for improved relations with Egypt, while the resolutions note that ties with the Camp David regime should be severed.

The PFLP said that Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], the PFLP's deputy secretary general and a member of the PLO Executive Committee member, and other PFLP members had expressed reservations about this paragraph.

### Fatah Council Meets; Abu Nidal Accuses 'Arafat

*JN190547 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 May 87*

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council held a meeting in Tunis yesterday, which was attended by the members of the Fatah Central Committee, including Yasir 'Arafat. The participants discussed the latest Palestinian political and military developments, as well as conditions in the occupied territories. The implementation of the 18th PNC session resolutions was also examined. The meeting followed the deliberations of the PLO Executive Committee, which reaffirmed the PLO's positions on important issues, esecially the Middle East international confer-

ence and the PLO's desire for good relations with all Arab states, including Egypt, Syria, and Jordan.

Meanwhile, the Fatah-Revolutionary Council, which is led by Abu Nida! [Sabri al-Banna], issued a statement in Beirut accusing Yasir 'Arafat of trying to sow discord among the Palestinian factions with the goal of paving the way for his participation in the international conference. The statement praised Syrian policy, which seeks to achieve strategic parity between the Arabs and Israel.

## INTRA-GULF AFFAIRS

### Iranian Ship Attacks Liberian Tanker Off Kuwait

*JN181610 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] London, 18 May (INA) — According to the British insurance company Lloyds, an Iranian ship launched an attack this morning on a Liberian-registered oil tanker, the *Golar Robin*, which was bound for Kuwait. Lloyds said a fire started aboard the 98,905-ton tanker while on the high seas off Kuwait.

## PDRY

### Al-Bid Delivers Report on Draft Document

*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the high preparatory committee for the party general congress, yesterday evening in the hall of the 'Abdallah al-Dhib Institute [words indistinct] launched the draft of the analytical and critical document with members of leading party committees.

At this meeting, which was attended by brother members of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee, and ministers and chairmen of the mass organizations, the brother secretary general delivered an important speech. In it he described the document as a theoretical contribution of the YSP to enrich scientific socialist thought in the context of revolutionary practice under the various circumstances and peculiarities experienced by Democratic Yemen in the framework of the countries and peoples struggling on the path of socialist orientation. Furthermore, it will be an important guide for all revolutionary and liberation forces in the world and is one of the basic references in our revolutionary experience.

He stressed that the draft critical and analytical document should receive close attention from party activists, the vanguard of the masses, so as to move forward on the path of socialist orientation and elevate the revolutionary experience to higher levels, ridding it of flaws, obstructions, and all subjective and objective obstacles.

The brother secretary general said that there was no suitable method of discussion other than concentrating on the principal, serious developments, with the aim of halting the subjective movements that cannot be supported by conscious discipline through commitment to the party's program and internal statutes. He warned that if we do not overcome these, they will eventually lead to the spread and intensification of the factionalism and sickness that the party experienced before the bloody incidents of the abortive 13 January conspiracy, led by the opportunist rightist current. He stressed that our party would stand seriously against this type of negative phenomen.

The secretary general said the document represents the communal will of the party and its Central Committee and the political experiences that were accumulated in the course of the struggle against the opportunist leftist and rightist currents. In this respect, he asked the basic organizations to shoulder their responsibilities in communicating the content of the draft critical and analytical document to the ranks of the masses, and urged them to participate in discussing it and working to understand its contents in a creative form. The secretary general said: We are not struggling under easy and simple circumstances, but rather under circumstances more complicated than at any previous time. He pointed out that the class enemies have become fiercer and are certain to continue their despicable conspiracies.

The secretary general urged diligent and tireless work to combat the class enemies through the close linking of the theoretical bases provided by the draft critical and analytical document and revolutionary practice. At the end of his speech, the secretary general asked for a transformation of words into deeds and for revolutionary theory into revolutionary practice. He stressed hard work for the theoretical, organizational, and political unity of the party and its revolutionary purity, and for the deepening of its revolutionary ties with the Arab and world communist and workers movement, headed by the Leninist party, the CPSU.

Brother Dr Sayf Sail Khalid [name as heard], member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party organization committee in Aden Governorate, had delivered a speech at the start of the session.

### Defense Minister Confers With GDR Officials

*EA152111 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 87*

[Text] Brother Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and defense minister, met in his office this afternoon with the GDR charge d'affaires and the GDR Embassy's military attache. The session included a discussion of the amity and cooperation between our country and the GDR, with emphasis on relations between the armies of the two friendly states.

The brother defense minister stressed the importance of reinforcing and developing these ties and broadening them to include an exchange of expertise on the Armed Forces' combat and political readiness. He highlighted the desire of our country and party to cultivate these ties and consolidate the militant friendship between the armies of the two friendly states. For their part, the two comrades, the charge d'affaires and the military attache, explained that the GDR and the command of the German Defense Ministry were ready to help expand and deepen these firm internationalist relations.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### Algerian Prime Minister Arrives in Jeddah 18 May

*LD190832 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0100 GMT 19 May 87*

[Text] Jeddah, [dateline as received] — Abdelhamid Brahimi, member of the Political Bureau of the [Algerian] FLN party and prime minister, arrived here last night [18 May] on a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed on arrival at the airport by Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sudayri, deputy governor of Jeddah; Salim

Sunbul, director of a Foreign Ministry branch and Protocol Department in the western region; an official of the Royal Protocol Department; and a number of officials.

## UAE

### Iraqi Interior Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

*JN181809 Manama WAKH in English 1655 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 18 (GNA) — Iraqi Interior Minister Sa'dun Shakir arrived here today carrying a message for UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The message dealt with the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Shakir, who is also a member of the Revolutionary Command Council, was greeted on arrival by UAE Minister of State for Interior Affairs Major General Hammudah ibn 'Ali and Iraqi Ambassador to UAE Taha 'Arim.

**Received by President**

*JN181943 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 May (INA) — Sa'dun Shakir, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, RCC member, and interior minister, has conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, dealing with bilateral relations and the situation in the region. This took place when Shaykh Zayid received President Saddam Husayn's envoy in Abu Dhabi this evening. Major General Hammudah ibn 'Ali, UAE minister of state for internal affairs, attended the meeting. Sa'dun Shakir arrived in Abu Dhabi earlier today.

### Moroccan Envoy Leaves Abu Dhabi After 1-Day Stay

*JN181626 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 18 (GNA) — Ibrahim Faraj, envoy of King Hassan II of Morocco, left here today wrapping up a one day visit to UAE as part of a tour of a number of states in the region.

During his visit, the Moroccan envoy conveyed a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from King Hassan II of Morocco dealing with bilateral relations.

## Commentaries View Impact of 'Stark' Incident

### War May 'Expand'

*NC181451 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1240 GMT 18 May 87*

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad Commentary: "The U.S. Frigate Incident and the Possibilities of an Expanding Gulf War"]

[Text] The principle that war tends to expand by its nature has been a constant in military thought since ancient times and is adhered to by all politicians, military leaders, and strategists. The Gulf war is no exception to this rule, even though it has been possible over the past 6 and 1/2 years to avoid expanding the conflict to other countries in the region and even though it has been possible for that war to continue without involving the big powers. These developments, however, did not mean it would be possible to feel permanently secure that the conflict would consume only its two protagonists.

The aerial attack on a U.S. naval vessel in the Gulf last night is tangible proof that it is impossible for the Iraq-Iran war to always remain an exception to the rule that conflicts tend to expand. As U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz noted in his initial reaction to the attack, the event indicates that the Gulf war poses dangers to other countries. In fact, the potential dangers to which Shultz referred have always been present in that war. The threats to free navigation have been evident more than once during the war, both through the tankers war and Iranian threats to close the Strait of Hormuz, and also the Iranian harassment of the Gulf countries' ships. Iran has often openly threatened to carry the conflict to Kuwait, claiming it supports Iraq. Finally, the USSR's agreement to lease oil tankers to Kuwait and the U.S. approval to raise its flag over Kuwaiti tankers is sufficient reason to believe the two big powers — or one of them — could find themselves involved if Iran were to attack tankers hoisting their flags. Thus, a new possibility of expanding the war has appeared, even if the United States and the USSR had not intended it.

As to some peoples' wager that Iran always has been careful to avoid directly harassing the two superpowers, it is an argument one cannot feel certain will hold for long because the outbreak and expansion of war does not solely depend upon intentional acts. There always is a possibility that wars might begin and spread by mistake.

Diplomatic sources in the Gulf revealed that everyone there held his breath on learning of the attack on the U.S. frigate last night. The people there were afraid Iran might be the assailant and consequently that the United States would have no option but to consider it an act of aggression to which it would be bound, for reasons of prestige, to respond. In such an event, no one would be able to foresee the consequences, nor would anyone be able to assume that the Soviets would remain spectators to a war in which the Americans are a party in a region so close to their borders.

If Gulf officials breathed more easily once the United States declared the attack a mistake by an Iraqi plane, what would prevent Iran from making such a mistake in the future? What guarantees are there that such mistakes will not eradicate the efforts to contain the war and prevent its spread? Nothing can guarantee that except the total cessation of the conflict. It has been recently proved that the big powers can be dragged into it unintentionally and in spite of themselves. These big powers are the only countries that can stop the war because of their capability of organizing an international arms embargo on the party refusing to cooperate with the UN Security Council resolutions to stop the war and to settle the conflict by peaceful means.

### Peace 'More Difficult'

*NC182220 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1830 GMT 18 May 87*

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] U.S. President Reagan is closely following the developments of the situation resulting from the accidental attack by Iraqi planes on the U.S. frigate *Stark* while it was sailing in the Gulf.

It has become very clear that the danger zone in the Gulf has been widened as a result of the constant escalation of military operations by Iran. Iranian efforts are sometimes directed against Basra and sometimes against Kurdistan in the north, in an attempt to subdue Iraq militarily and politically. In fact, since 24 December 1986, Iran has not succeeded in attaining a single goal, not even a tactical one, at Iraq's expense. The scope of the conflict has expanded, and currently there is a threat to international navigation and the oil trade. Oil tankers have become the targets of attacks. Iran has threatened some merchant vessels and oil tankers. In view of this the United States has agreed to defend certain ships in the Gulf and the USSR has agreed to defend others. This is a major and very dangerous development. It is drawing the superpowers into the conflict begun by Iran; namely, the dirty war known as the Gulf war.

Today we are considering the attack by Iraqi fighter aircraft on the U.S. frigate *Stark* while it was sailing in the Gulf. Of course, there have been Iraqi excuses. It is claimed that the operation was accidental. Nevertheless, despite the error in this instance, and possible ill will in other instances, wars might break out and matters might take a turn for the worse.

Atif al-Ghamri, our political affairs editor and assistant chief editor of *Al-Ahram*, comments on this issue:

Even before the Gulf war began, we knew that the region was an area of international East-West conflict, or to be more precise, an area of conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. Examining an issue of this kind, we find that when any big power wants to engulf a region in its international conflict, it stirs up some kind of local dispute there which will lead one of the parties to seek the aid of this or that great power. Thus it transpires that the presence of the great powers is in response to a request by the countries of the region. This is a well-known strategic scheme. It has been applied in numerous parts of the world, in Africa and elsewhere.

When we view its actual application in the Gulf, we find that, given the prolongation of the Gulf war because of the Iranian

position, not only will the scope of the regional conflict itself be expanded, but further opportunity will be given to the great powers to increase their presence in a manner that might turn the conflict from a merely regional dispute into a wider international conflict. This will draw the region into the sphere of international conflict. The course of any future developments there will also be affected. Consequently, the warring parties themselves will become mere tools and pawns in the hands of the big countries.

As a result of the continuing Gulf war, the United States is now hoisting its flag on the vessels of other countries and increasing its military presence in the region. The USSR is doing likewise. The region is therefore in danger of becoming involved in international conflict. This will also make the resolution of the Gulf war more difficult. In the past it would have been possible for Iran and Iraq to sit down and negotiate a solution to the crisis. However, in view of the current complications, which have imparted an international dimension to the conflict, a future solution has become more difficult.

### Debt Rescheduling Delegation Leaves for Paris
*NC181309 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1303 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA) — The Egyptian economic delegation, which will hold negotiations with representatives of the creditor states in order to reschedule Egypt's debts, left for Paris today.

The delegation, which is led by the Central Bank governor Dr Salah Hamid, will hold the first round of 2 days of discussions with the creditor governments this Thursday. He will attempt to gain a grace period of 3-5 years for the Egyptian Government's debts, after which time Egypt will begin paying the installments due.

Egypt's decision to reschedule its debts follows its receipt of the letter of intent the IMF approved last Friday. This letter confirms the soundness of the Egyptian economy and its ability to fulfill its commitments to the various countries and other international organizations.

### Minister Details Oil Production, Revenues
*JN171529 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 May 87 p 1*

[Text] A $9.356 billion surplus has been realized by the oil sector during the first 5-year plan, which ends this June. With this surplus the needed foreign currency for the economic and social development plan has been secured. Exports during the 5 years of the plan have reached $13.364 billion in spite of the worldwide drop in oil prices last year. This was stated by 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, who added that oil reserves during this period have doubled to reach 4.2 billion barrels while production reached 200 million tonnes.

Qandil added that 19 oil and natural gas finds were made last year alone, and 15 oil exploration agreements with foreign firms are being prepared; the draft agreements were sent to the State Council to be reviewed and drafted in their final legal form. Qandil said the plan seeks to achieve balance and coordination among productive fields to increase strategic oil reserves.

In statements to *Al-Ahram* correspondent 'Adil Ibrahim, Qandil said that investments by local and foreign oil companies during the 5 years of the plan amount to 7.1 billion pounds and that Egyptian oil and natural gas production has increased from 34.4 million tonnes before the plan to 49.1 million tonnes this year divided as follows: 44.1 million tonnes of crude oil and 5 million tonnes of natural gas. He added that butane gas production has increased from 77,000 tonnes to 250,000 tonnes this year.

### Spanish Industry Minister Ends 4-Day Visit
*NC181701 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 18 May 87*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 May (MENA) — Luis Carlos Crossier, Spanish minister of industry and energy, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for home today after a 4-day official visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

### 'Abd al-Majid Receives Omani Counterpart Message
*NC161324 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a message today from Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid received the message during a meeting today with 'Abdallah Ibn 'Ali al-Najjar, Omani ambassador to Egypt. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Arab world, ongoing efforts to achieve a just and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and promoting bilateral relations.

## President Sends Message to Reagan on Ship Attack

*JN182126 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2102 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA) — In a message sent to U.S. President Ronald Reagan today, President Saddam Husayn says: I believe you are certain that the Iraqi aircraft were operating in an area in which they had attacked hostile targets in the past. They in no way intended to strike a target belonging to your country or any other but Iran, which insists on launching repeated acts of aggression against our country, and which is responsible for the lack of security and stability in the entire region.

President Saddam Husayn expresses hope that this unintentional incident will not affect relations between Iraq and the United States. He also emphasizes the desire of the Republic of Iraq to see these relations remain cordial and based on mutual respect, international norms and customs, and a common desire for the establishment of peace and security in the region.

In his message, President Saddam notes that he would be very grateful if President Reagan were to convey his condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims.

The following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's message to the president of the United States:

His Excellency Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, Washington.

I would like to express to you my deep sorrow for the tragic incident that afflicted the U.S. frigate *Stark* and its victims. I believe you are certain that the Iraqi aircraft were operating in an area in which they had attacked hostile targets in the past. They in no way intended to strike a target belonging to your country or any other but Iran, which insists on launching repeated acts of aggression against our country and which is responsible for the lack of security and stability in the entire region.

I hope this accident will not affect our relations, which we hope will remain cordial and based on mutual respect, principles of international dealing, and a common desire to establish peace and stability in the area. This tragic incident underscores the need to join efforts to end the war and force the Iranian regime to agree to peace in accordance with the principles of international law and UN Security Council resolutions to halt the bloodshed and losses. We are following your government's efforts in this field at the UN Security Council with keen interest.

I would be extremely grateful if you could convey on my behalf my deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims. I have instructed our ambassador in Washington to carry this out from his end and to explain this matter to the American public and affirm the Iraqi people's eagerness to maintain their friendship with the American people. Please accept my best wishes.

Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 18 May 1987

## President, Cabinet Discuss Development Plan

*JN181318 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers here today. The national development plan for 1986-90 was discussed at the 5-hour session. It was decided to call the plan a framework and a general approach, which will run for 3 years instead of 5, and will be approved by the Council of Ministers and not by a law. It was also decided to form a committee to discuss the main outlines of the plan, to rework it in light of discussions, and to present it to the Council of Ministers.

The new legislation regarding the workers federation law for the private, mixed, and cooperative sectors was examined and appropriate steps were taken.

## Assembly Approves Bill on Autonomous Region

*JN181524 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA) — The Iraqi National Assembly held a session here today under its deputy speaker, Baha' al-Din Ahmad. The Assembly approved a draft law on administrative structures for the autonomous region to organize its financial affairs and increase its powers. The Assembly also discussed a draft bill on facilitating citizens' transactions in the state and socialist sector departments to cut red tape in state offices and streamline procedures there to conclude any business involving the people by eliminating unnecessary steps.

## Iranian Naval Assault on Al-'Amiq Repulsed

*JN181652 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1618 GMT 18 May 87*

[Communique No 2,680 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In these blessed days of Ramadan, the Tehran rulers insist on treachery and aggression, which are an extension of their historical perfidy and rancor. It is God's will to instill joy in the souls of believers and to place grief and pain in the hearts of criminal aggressors.

Despite the series of grave defeats that befell past attacks on the port of Al-'Amiq, the enemy sent out a group of boats at 1200 today carrying scoundrels and armed with 106-mm guns, rocket launchers, and heavy machine guns in a reckless attempt to strike Al-'Amiq.

Our courageous sailors answered the call of duty and in resolute attacks, our heroic vessels clashed with the enemy boats and managed to destroy the bulk of them with God's support. The enemy was forced to throw additional vessels into the battle to keep up his momentum. A total of 42 enemy boats had been deployed during the time our vessels hunted them down. Between 1245 and 1600 our sailors hit and destroyed 13 enemy boats. The Al-'Amiq Port force also took on the enemy vessels, hitting and destroying another five between 1330 and 1710 today.

Hence, 18 enemy vessels in all were hit and destroyed and could be seen burning with the naked eye. The other enemy boats fled, pursued by our fire. The situation was settled in favor of our victorious forces.

Blessed be our courageous Navy — commanders, officers, and other ranks. Blessed be the force of Al-'Amiq — commander, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God, the supporter of believers in this blessed month.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 May 1987

### Ground, Air Operations Noted

*JN181742 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 87*

[Communique No 2,681 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces have inflicted new losses on our country's enemies through the following combat activities last night and today:

1. The courageous knights of our helicopter gunships carried out 35 combat missions against enemy units in the operational areas, inflicting significant losses in men and materiel on the Zionist aggressors and destroying enemy positions over their very heads. Our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our formations in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah fired on groups of enemy soldiers and vehicles. Through effective blows they dealt the aggressors additional losses in personnel, equipment, and weapons. Elsewhere in the same sector, an enemy shovel [preceding word in English] and a firing point were destroyed, an enemy soldier was killed, and an ammunition dump was demolished.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector brought enemy units before them under an effective artillery barrage. They also fired on enemy vehicles and engineers. A number of scoundrels were killed, two ammunition dumps were set ablaze, and seven RPG-7 launchers and six Kalashnikov rifles, which the enemy abandoned in previous battles, were captured.

4. Our valiant men in the VII Army Corps sector continued their courageous operations, inflicting further losses in men and equipment on the Khomeyniite clique on top of the following confirmed losses:

The death of two scoundrels, the demolition of an ammunition dump, the destruction of several infantry positions, and the seizure of a 40-mm rocket launcher.

5. The criminal enemy bombarded residential areas in the brave city of Basra with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling damaged a number of homes and other civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 May 1987

### UN Informed of 14 May Iranian Shelling of Basra

*JN181810 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] United Nations, May 18, INA — The United Nations Security Council today was informed of another attack by the Iranian regime on Iraqi civilians and civilian property.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraqi Ambassador to the UN 'Ismat Kittani details an Iranian shelling of the city of Basra on May 14, which resulted in the death of three civilian citizens, the wounding of 44 others and damage to a number of dwelling-houses and to civilian property.

### INA Comments on U.S. Arms Shipments to Iran

*JN181422 Baghdad INA in English 1405 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] New York, May 18, INA — As the Iran-Israeli-contra affair resumes tomorrow, many questions and answers may raise fundamental issues and moral judgment in the conduct of United States foreign policy.

It also raises legal questions such as: Was it legal to sell arms to Iran in the first place?

The Arms Export Control Act bans the shipment of weapons to countries that sponsor terrorist activities. Iran is viewed by the State Department as one of the world's top sponsors of terrorism.

The hearing also will focus on the fact that the Arms Export Control Act requires that, if a recipient of U.S. arms wants to transfer those arms to a third country, it must have the permission of the U.S. Government. If the transfers are valued at 14 million [dollars] or more, a President must tell Congress before the transfer takes place. No such report to Congress was made in the case of the "Israeli" shipments of American arms to Iran, which included Hawk anti-aircraft missiles worth well over that amount.

### AL-THAWRAH: U.S. Must Match Words, Deeds on War

*JN151210 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 May 87 p 3*

[Article by Hammam 'Abd al-Ghani: "Practical Stands Are Needed"]

[Excerpt] The seven-member Arab committee on the Iraq-Iran war continues its contacts with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. It is trying to persuade them to take a positive and constructive stand on halting the war through the UN Security Council's passage of a binding resolution.

The committee met in Washington with such senior American officials as President Reagan, his deputy Bush, and his secretary of state, Shultz. Its members explained the dangers posed by the war's continuation to security and stability in the region and, consequently, to peace and security in the world. The committee emphasized the responsibility of the five permanent members to end this destructive war quickly. It also stressed the positive role

the United States can play if the U.S. Administration works honestly and seriously to attain this noble objective.

The committee members heard the views of the three officials and their desire to end the Iraq-Iran war. The three made many promises to the committee to end this conflict, either by suspending the supply of weapons, equipment, and information to Iran or through efforts to have a binding resolution passed by the UN Security Council. Such a resolution would impose sanctions on any party refusing to abide by it.

President Reagan and his secretary of state have also pledged to have America's allies follow its lead.

Lofty and glorious Iraq has never rejected any positive initiative by any international party to halt the war and end Iran's aggression against our country. Iraq has given an affirmative answer to every call and initiative by international and regional organizations, particularly the UN Security Council.

At the same time, Iraq, which has experienced the protracted war over the years in all its detail and has monitored with the eyes of a mature expert all the manipulations and maneuvers by the various international parties, does not depend much on statements, communiques, and promises after the world learned that some of these same actors were working secretly in a manner opposed to their declared policies. As revealed in the Irangate scandal, the United States supplied Iran with weapons and information for over 2 years. It did so either directly or through the Zionist entity, while continuing to profess neutrality in the conflict. It also used to show intransigence toward any Iraqi position on the pretext of this neutrality to cover up for its arms relations with the terrorist Khomeyniite regime.

U.S. credibility has been undermined not only in Iraq but in the entire Arab world and the world at large in light of this contradiction between overt and covert stands. The U.S. Administration is still feeling the effects of the scandal caused by its dealings with Iran's Khomeyni and his terrorist gangs.

The U.S. Administration's efforts to regain its credibility in the Arab region and the world are legitimate, and no one can object to them. However, these efforts will not be wasted only if practical positions are in line with the statements and promises, such as putting a definitive end to the supply of arms to Iran and bringing pressure to bear on its European allies and on Israel to have them suspend their shipments of weapons to Iran under the pretext of freeing the hostages or some other flimsy excuse.

The convocation of a UN Security Council session of foreign ministers and the passage of a binding resolution forcing the twoparties to the conflict to halt the war, as well as the imposition of sanctions on anyone rejecting the resolution, will be a practical test for all international parties regarding the conflict. This is above and beyond a true halt to their supply of Iran with all the means that help it continue the war and the aggression. [passage omitted]

## Paper Views Coup Attempt by Syrian Pilots

*JN181037 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 May 87 p 2*

["Spotlight" column by Liqa': "Another Attempt"]

[Text] Last Sunday's coup attempt in Syria was no surprise to those who follow the situation in that Arab country, which is deteriorating on every level. Throughout the years of Hafiz al-Asad's despotic and repressive rule, Syria has seen many economic and social crises. These crises have spared no citizen beyond the regime's henchmen and mercenaries. Syria's general budget for 1987 confirms that Hafiz al-Asad's regime is dragging the Syrian people into one of the greatest crises, which will force them to face a mountain of daily troubles to meet their basic needs. This is being done in the hope of keeping the people's minds off the thought of an uprising.

The nonnational policy followed by Hafiz al-Asad throughout his tyrannical rule has also created severe psychological crises for the average Syrian, who has become confused between Syria's honorable political heritage in pan-Arab history and the treasonous policies of their rulers, represented by their support for the Iranian regime in its criminal aggression against Iraq. In addition to this, Hafiz al-Asad played a basic role in setting Arab divisions in concrete, undermining pan-Arab ties, hatching plots and acts of terrorism in the Arab states, and in Lebanon in particular, conspiring to cause a rift in Palestinian national unity, and obstructing resistance of the Zionist enemy.

The Syrian people cannot forget the dirty crimes committed by the Damascus rulers throughout Syria. This is especially true of their hideous offense in Hamah, where their collaborators massacred thousands of innocent and defenseless people in 1982. All this is on top of the regime's daily implementation of a repressive, terrorist policy against thousands in jails.

However, the noteworthy point is that those behind the attempt were pilots from an Air Force base in northern Syria. The Air Force, in particular, is subject to stricter security control by the regime than any other branch of the Syrian Armed Forces. The regime thinks it can recruit Air Force personnel to protect it. This means the Damascus regime has now been endangered by the party it thought it could at least neutralize.

In brief, what took place was another sign that the situation in Syria is opposed to the current the Damascus regime wants to create. Although the recent attempt failed, it will pave the path for others that will succeed in the end.

## U.S., USSR Urged To Pressure Iran To Make Peace

*JN190909 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*
*19 May 87 pp 1, 19*

[Editorial: "The Gulf's Fire Reaches All"]

[Text] The attacks on the interests of the two superpowers in the past 2 days are an unprecedented reflection of the risks involved in the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. They are also a sign of the possible repercussions of this bloody and bitter conflict, which threaten peace and security in the region.

The identity of the party that struck the Soviet tanker leased to Kuwait and the planes that bombed the U.S. frigate is unimportant. What must be emphasized is that these events in the Gulf directly undermine the interests of the two superpowers. This is the first such occurrence since the war erupted 7 years ago, which should highlight the tragedy represented by the continuation of this prolonged conflict.

The most eloquent message conveyed by this escalation in the Gulf and by this series of important events, which smacks of Iran, is that the superpowers, which have long chosen to remain oblivious to this tragedy, are now paying the price of their policy. Their program had been based on fanning the flames of a war that does not truly serve the interests of these superpowers.

Hence, the events in the Gulf over the past 2 days point up the pressing need to launch a large-scale international effort, initiated and led by the two superpowers whose interests have been recently undermined. Its goal should not be the passage of a new international resolution calling for an end to the war or appeals to Iran to respond favorably to the UN Security Council. In fact, its aim should be coordinated international steps forcing the Iranian aggressors to end their aggression and the threats they pose to regional security, peace, and stability.

We believe the incidents of the past 2 days offer us a precious opportunity, which may never come again, to make qualitative and unprecedented efforts to extinguish the flames of the Gulf war. We also appeal to both the Soviet Union and the United States, which have been openly challenged to work together, to force Iran to end its aggression through the adoption of a series of international sanctions against Iran and by boycotting and isolating Tehran. The hope here is to push it toward a favorable response to peace overtures seeking a settlement, the objective that serves Iranian, Arab, and international interests.

## King Receives Lebanese Foreign Ministry Official

*JN181854 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1800 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received Fu'ad al-Turk, secretary general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, at Al-Nadwah Palace today. During the meeting his majesty expressed Jordan's concern over Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The session was also attended by the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

## Israeli Air Raid Reported East of Sidon

### 'Heavy-caliber' Rockets Fired

*NC181526 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1519 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Here is a flash that we have just received from our newsdesk: A squadron of Israeli helicopters carried out an air raid over the area of Al-Fawwar and Al-Miyah wa Miyah east of Sidon at 1810 this evening. The helicopters fired a number of heavy-caliber rockets at these areas. This is a preliminary report from our correspondent in Sidon. We will give you further details as soon as we receive them.

### Raid Leaves 1 Dead

*NC181627 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
*1620 GMT 18 May 87*

[Excerpt] Israeli planes raided the Al-Miyah wa Miyah valley shortly after 1800 this evening. According to preliminary reports, the raid left one person dead and caused some material damage. The Israeli planes, which encountered antiaircraft fire, dropped four rockets on the targeted Palestinian positions. [passage omitted]

## Fadlallah Says Mideast Conference Means 'Defeat'

*NC180826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
*0430 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the extent of disarray in Lebanon is becoming so serious that no amount of cosmetic reform would work anymore. The confrontation with Israel and imperialism, he noted, were used as slogans by people who could not develop the necessary political or spiritual commitment.

Fadlallah also said that the international conference proposed for tackling the Middle East crisis would only give a final shape to the defeat by legally recognizing the existence of Israel.

## LCP Statement on 'Sinful' Hamdan Assassination

*NC181352 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] has issued a statement condemning today's sinful assassination of LCP Central Committee member, Dr Hasan Hamdan, also known as Mahdi 'Amil. Dr Hamdan was a thinker and author of several books and studies, a professor of philosophy at the Lebanese University, and the holder of a doctorate degree in philosophy from the Sorbonne.

The statement says the enemies of religion, those working under the guise of religion, and those benefiting from an atmosphere of sectarianism and factional hegemony have carried out this cowardly crime in broad daylight and in the center of Beirut, which has welcomed the security plan in the hope of ridding itself of the nightmare of hegemony. However, the capital is surprised that it must confront the continuing conspiracies of those who challenge the security plan and its supporters, the patriotic forces, and both the national and patriotic causes, in a bid to continue their cowardly acts of terrorism.

The statement concludes by noting the LCP Central Committee's pledge to continue the struggle to serve the cause for which the noble martyr, Dr Mahdi 'Amil, lived, fought, and died. The committee also stresses that this crime will receive the punishment it deserves.

## Syria's Kan'an on Karami Meeting, Security

*NC181246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1030 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon] has been holding meetings with Lebanese officials since yesterday in a bid to end the government crisis caused by the resignation [of Prime Minister Rashid Karami] in the light of recent proposals by the Lebanese team which President Amin al-Jumayyil sent to Damascus.

Kan'an began his meetings with West Beirut officials today byvisiting Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Accompanying Kan'an was Syrian chief observer Colonel 'Ali Hammud, and together they briefed Karami on the progress of the Lebanese-Syrian talks.

Following the visit, Kan'an said: We briefed Karami on the recent round of Lebanese-Syrian talks, and he then gave us his opinion. When Kan'an was asked if there had been any new developments concerning the Damascus talks, he mentioned that several options concerning power sharing were tabled during the last round. The presidential team is now reviewing these alternatives and will come back to us with its preferences on this issue, he said.

When asked if the date for the coming round of talks had been fixed, Kan'an replied: The new date will be set in the light of the ongoing consultations and the answer given to the current proposals.

Asked to give details on the investigations into West Beirut security incidents, Kan'an said: We once said that there would be no more security violations because we had some clues to follow, but we were astonished later to find out that the violence continued. However, we continued the investigations and eventually discovered more information, actually managing to pinpoint the perpetrators. There were scores of them, certain disaffected individuals who took their control over Beirut for granted and never came to terms with the fact that they can no longer have their way in it. This is why they were trying to tamper with Beirut's security. Eight of these individuals were arrested and interrogated, and their interrogation led to several other clues, and eventually to the masterminds.

We then arrested their leader himself, who is believed to have ordered the recent incidents in West Beirut, a man by the name of Abu Sa'id. He is one of these Abu's who have widely abused this country. This person has no political cover, for he was

stripped of his political post. It is clear that he had been acting on his own and to advance his own interests, which run counter to those of his nation. We are now interrogating him to find out more about his motives. The current belief is that he was running a network working for him personally.

When Kan'an was asked who he thought was responsible for the assassination of philosopher Hasan Hamdan today, he said: The killing was a painful shock to me. We will follow it up to find out who was responsible. If the perpetrators have any political association — and there are quite a few disaffected parties in action — we will not show mercy to any individual or group that violates the security of the people or this city.

**Resistance Groups Shell Israeli, Lahd Positions**
*NC160621 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
*0430 GMT 16 May 87*

[Excerpt] Resistance fighters carried out several heroic operations in the South yesterday, inflicting losses on the ranks of the enemy and Lahd militiamen. According to security reports from the eastern sector, a national resistance group shelled a position held jointly by the Israeli occupation forces and the militiamen on the Ibil al-Saqi plain. Another group shelled a militia artillery position in Wadi Abu Qamhah, while a third bombarded the Metulla settlement near the barbed wire belt in the Kafr Killa area. Two rockets exploded inside the settlement, doing heavy damage to homes and to power and phone networks. Casualty figures are unknown.

Reports from western Al-Biqa' note that a national resistance unit shelled a Lahd militia post on the southern hills in (Tumat Nihah). The rockets hit the target squarely, destroying an artillery emplacement and setting a military car ablaze. The reports indicate that one of the militiamen manning the position was killed and another wounded. Ambulances were seen taking the casualties to Jazzin.

The Islamic Resistance issued a statement yesterday saying that one of its groups had shelled the Ma'alot settlement in Tarshiha. The National Resistance Front stated that the Martyr 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Group bombarded the Nahariyya settlement, while a third shelled the Shamir settlement. The front said the rockets hit their targets.

In the meantime, five enemy tanks have advanced toward the Al-Hamra' area. Local residents resisted their advance, stoning some 75 soldiers. The troops fired on the citizens, and the tanks continued their drive from Yuhmur. Several citizens were injured in the clash and were taken to area hospitals.

At 2100 yesterday, a National Resistance group clashed with an enemy patrol in the valley between Tayr Harfa and Majdal Zun. Resistance fighter 'Ali 'Ulayq from the village of Yuhmur was martyred. Casualties among the patrol are unknown. [passage omitted]

**Villages Shelled; Resistance Attacks in South**
*NC181533 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 May 87*

[Excerpts] We begin this newscast from the South, where Zionist acts of aggression against harmless villages have continued. Enemy artillery stationed on Tallat al-Suwayda' shelled the village of Habbush at 1100 today. The sporadic shelling, which lasted for approximately 1 hour, left one citizen dead and two others wounded. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, resistance men have carried out a new series of operations against the occupation forces and agent Lahd militiamen. The resistance men attacked a Lahd patrol on the Kafra-Haris road last night. A clash ensued, lasting 10 minutes. Machine guns and rockets were used. Several members of the patrol were either killed or wounded as a result. A Lahd militia source has admitted the operation, describing the clash as violent. As usual, no mention was made of casualties.

Resistance fighters have also attacked a position manned by Lahd militiamen in Bint Jubayl, using 107-mm rockets. Direct hits were scored. A land mine exploded under a military vehicle belonging to the agents northwest of the Khayrallah Salamah barracks in Marj 'Uyun at 0600 today. Four Lahd militiamen were either killed or wounded and were immediately taken to the Marj 'Uyun hospital.

## Defense Minister Talas Receives GDR Counterpart

*JN181906 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and deputy prime minister, received at noon today Gen Heinz Kessler, GDR defense minister, and an accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by GenHikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian Arab Army, the GDR ambassador in Damascus, and the GDR military attache. They discussed bilateral relations, common goals, and ways to achieve them in the best interests of the two friendly peoples and in the interest of a just and permanent peace in the region.

Gen Kessler stressed that his country will support Syria in its just struggle against imperialist and Zionist aggression against the Arab nation until occupied Arab territories are liberated and usurped Arab rights are recovered. He also stressed his country is prepared to implement full-scale cooperation with the Syrian Army in various fields to boost the defenses of the valiant Syrian Armed Forces.

In the evening, Gen Kessler and his delegation visited the martyrs cemetery where he placed a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

## Khaddam Receives Polish Party Delegation

*JN181804 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has received the Polish United Workers Party delegation led by Comrade Jozef Czyrek, Politburo member and secretary general of the Party's Central Committee, with the Polish ambassador in Damascus in attendance. They talked about international and Mideast developments as well as Israel's continuing aggressive policies supported by the United States.

Comrade Czyrek stressed Poland's support for Syria's principled policies, which have played an important role in aborting hostile imperialist and Zionist plans. They also discussed relations between Syria and Poland and looked into how best to develop and foster them in various fields.

## Ba'th, Polish Parties Confer

*JN181339 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Party talks between an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation under Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general, and a Polish United Workers Party delegation under Comrade Jozef Czyrek, Politburo member and secretary of the Party's Central Committee, began at National Command Headquarters this morning. During these talks the two delegations reviewed cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Polish United Workers Party and between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Polish People's Republic, as well as formulas for promoting and bolstering these relations in the service of the two peoples' objectives and struggles and the mutual interests of both friendly parties and countries.

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed the great achievements and transformations in Syria under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, especially after the Corrective Movement led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the Republic. He also talked about developments in Arab and international relations; Syria's role in confronting Zionist aggression and suspect schemes against the Arab nation's struggle; the central cause of Palestine; and helping the Lebanese people to liberate their land from the Zionist occupiers and their agents, achieve a national accord, and keep Lebanon's unity, independence, and Arabism away from imperialist and Zionist hegemony and control.

Comrade al-Ahmar praised Syria's developed, close relations with socialist bloc countries, headed by the Soviet Union — a country friendly and loyal to struggling peoples in the world.

Comrade Czyrek reviewed the political and economic situation in Poland and Europe. He praised relations between the Polish United Workers Party and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He affirmed the stands of his party and country that support the Arab struggle in general and Syria's struggle in particular. He said Syria is the main pillar of the Arab and international liberation struggle in the Middle East and voiced appreciation for Syria's role in the region as it constitutes a basis for the Arab liberation movement in confronting imperialism.

He also wished further progress and prosperity for Syria and its people under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. He stressed the continuation of efforts by his party and country to consolidate relations of cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries.

## People's Assembly Speaker Departs for CSSR

*JN181240 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1142 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Damascus, 18 May (SANA) — People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi left Damascus for Prague early today leading a parliamentary delegation on an official 5-day visit to the CSSR. The trip comes in response to an invitation from Alois Indra, chairman of the country's Federal Assembly. The group will hold parliamentary talks to further strengthen bilateral relations and coordinate stands on matters of common interest in international parliamentary forums. The prospects for exchanging expertise will also be examined. In addition, the group will meet with CSSR officials and visit key establishments and facilities.

### Shultz Remarks on Reagan Plan Worry Shamir

*TA181222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
*1200 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] The prime minister says that the statement by the U.S. secretary of state that the United States will broach the Reagan initiative in the international conference is a worrisome novelty. According to Mr Shamir, this initiative spells the transfer of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to Jordan.

Interviewed by our correspondent Amnon Nadav, Mr Shamir said that these statements show what Israel can expect of its best friend; therefore it is obvious what it can expect from others. He believes the topical issue in an international conference, if it is held, will be a return to the 1967 borders. Addressing members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister said that the world is surprised by the shift in Israel's position toward the international conference. He expressed the hope that the Alignment will use common sense, understand that the issue of the international conference is no longer topical, and realize that there is no point in disbanding the government over this issue.

### Peres Interviewed Upon Return From U.S.

*TA190509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
*0405 GMT 19 May 87*

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by 'Oded Ben-'Ami at Ben-Gurion Airport upon Peres' return from United States 19 May — recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] To begin with, we would like to know whether you are returning from the United States with any additional element affecting the peace process, which was the main topic of your talks with Secretary Shultz?

[Peres] I think I am returning with matters that were clear from the beginning and are now even clearer; that is, the United States will stand with us on the demands being made of the Soviet Union on the immigration issue and on the renewal of relations, and the United States is absolutely firmly set against the conference having any coercive authority. At the same time, I think we are all interested in the peace process not being severed or destroyed, because both the Arab world and the Soviet Union also have other options.

[Ben-'Ami] But there was a bad feeling here, mainly among your Likud colleagues, over the fact that Secretary Shultz again raised the Reagan plan, which did not appear acceptable to you, either.

[Peres] The answer to that is that I do not think the matter of Jerusalem and the Reagan plan were part of the speech's prepared text. I think that Shultz was asked questions and that these are the traditional U.S. positions; there is nothing new in them. However, as far as I know this was not in the prepared version.

[Ben-'Ami] In other words, you oppose this plan?

[Peres] What a question. We have always said the Reagan plan is not acceptable to us. We welcomed the Reagan initiative, but not the plan. On the matter of Jerusalem, there is absolutely nothing to talk about. These are just insinuations coming from irresponsible groups in Israel. I do not understand their reasoning. Why should they want to create the impression that there are differences of opinion in Israel about Jerusalem? What is their interest in this? How far can one go in jeopardizing Israel's common positions for the sake of internal politics? I do not understand this.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, when you left Israel you had differences of opinion with Mr Shamir. During your short visit to New York and Washington the prime minister spoke as though you were not representing the government, as though he did not need a report from you. To what atmosphere are you returning?

[Peres] Look, the prime minister can decide what atmosphere he wants to create — probably one of dissolution, scorn, and arrogance. It will affect the government's existence and how matters are run. I also served as prime minister and I did all I could to preserve a respectful style without scorn or jeering. Let us say that Mr Shamir has this or that opinion. Fifty percent have another opinion. I have no complaints about the fact that Mr Shamir has a different view. What complaints has he that somebody else has a different view? The problem is not that I am asking anybody to change their views. I just think one should preserve respect and earnestness, and I did this for 2 years and 1 month. During that period not one word containing any hint of scorn or disrespect was heard from me, even when Mr Shamir's opinion differed from mine, for example on the withdrawal from Lebanon or the Tabah issue.

[Ben-'Ami] During your absence from Israel, two important things happened. First the Cabinet made a decision about tuition fees for students. I understand that you were briefed on this during the first few minutes after you landed. This is creating a great storm. In fact, the Alignment ministers lost the Cabinet vote on this matter.

[Peres] I heard that there is a problem over the vote. I was asked for my view by the Cabinet secretary, and I support the education minister's position. The same applies to Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, who was in the United States, and I do not know why this was not taken into account. The main point is that I think this is a very serious error. Why should we depict Israel, at home and abroad, as a country that discriminates between Jewish and Arab students? There is a problem with army veterans; they must be given rights. However, there is no point in establishing two different levels of tuition fees in the same country. This is a very serious error and should be rectified as soon as possible.

[Ben-'Ami] Will you initiate an attempt to amend the vote, to repeat this Cabinet vote?

[Peres] I do not know what the formal situation is; I will look into it, and only then will I be able to reach a conclusion.

[Ben-'Ami] With your permission, Mr Peres, we will move to the political matter. Minister Rubinstein has announced that he wants to leave the Cabinet. One brick seems to have fallen out of this wall. The Alignment team is continuing its contacts with the small factions today, but it looks as if the Likud has a majority

to block early elections at the moment. Are you going full steam ahead on this issue?

[Peres] In my view, the basic problem was and remains the peace process. Let us say that all the Likud members are 100-percent sure of everything they say. Why should Israel not take a direct look at whether a genuine chance for peace negotiations has really been created? After all, the Likud also says we must sit down with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, and there, too, lie the same awful dangers depicted by Ge'ula Kohen. Why should we not seriously examine the chance of getting out of a state of repeated wars and terrorism and really return to a more orderly life? This issue will not be dropped from the agenda. As for the differences in the Knesset, with one vote for or against, they make it impossible to run a government on a majority that relies on Kahane, for example. We must think about this very carefully; it is what leads us to self-contempt. In effect we are sitting in the same government while conducting an election campaign against each other. We should preserve a stately manner. What is this fear? After all, Mr Shamir has said several times that he is prepared to go to the nation, so let us do just that. The nation gave us the mandate; the nation can take it away. The nation must decide. The decision should be given back to the nation when the government is incapable of deciding.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you sure that the Alignment will succeed in winning 61 votes to overthrow the government?

[Peres] I am sure there is a national majority in favor of the peace process.

## Peres Said To Deviate From Position on USSR

*TA181100 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew*
*18 May 87 pp 1, 2*

[Report from the United States by Ran Dagoni and 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lythj

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] As far as Washington observers can recall, last night Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres deviated for the first time from the well-known formulation of the conditions for the Soviet Union's acceptance into the international forum, this being that "the Soviets must establish diplomatic relations with Israel and change their attitude toward the Jews living in the Soviet Union." For the first time Peres did not mention the condition that the Soviet Union must open its borders to let Soviet Jews out. This is being perceived as a relaxation in the Israeli position Peres wants to present in anticipation of future contacts with the Soviets. Earlier, in an interview with *Ma'ariv*, Peres rejected the criticism of U.S. officials who argued that the foreign minister had come to the United States to seek its help in his struggle with the Likud. "I did not come to ask anything of the Americans, and certainly not to ask them to intervene in the internal struggle in Israel. In my meeting with Secretary Shultz, we reviewed the political options and discussed the conditions for Soviet participation in the conference in particular," Peres said.

He added that as far as Israel is concerned, these conditions — the resumption of relations and an increase in Jewish emigration — have not been weakened. Quoted in *The New York Times*, U.S. officials said that Peres had taken premature action when he tried to bring about a decisive confrontation with Shamir over the question of an international conference. [passage omitted]

Sources in the vice prime minister's entourage last night dismissed the remarks by U.S. officials quoted in *The New York Times*. "Those officials are totally out of the picture," one source said. Another member of the entourage said: "On the contrary, one of the main messages Peres conveyed to Shultz was: 'Do not get dragged into our internal dispute; do not intervene in our affairs'."

According to members of Peres' entourage, Peres called on Shultz in order to assess the status of the international conference in the wake of the leaks, the Soviet momentum, and the obstacles in Israel.

The lion's share of Peres' talk with Shultz yesterday was devoted to the question of when and to what extent the Soviets will be let in on the picture.

To a certain extent, Moscow has not yet been given a serious presentation of the conditions demanded of it, and there have been no intense contacts with it, one source said. The same source added: The plan is to launch preconference contacts with the Soviets so as to learn from them whether they are prepared to join the game according to the rules stipulated in the Cluverious document.

## Labor Future Unclear; SHAS Still 'On the Fence'

*TA180929 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English*
*18 May 87 pp 1, 8*

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Labour Party's small hopes for early elections continue to hinge on SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], which last night decided to remain on the fence and to wait for further offers from the Likud.

SHA's spiritual mentors, the Council of Torah Scholars, decided last night not to decide, thus freezing Friday's Likud-SHAS agreement which would have returned SHAS to the government and sealed its opposition to early elections.

Well-placed Labour sources predicted last night that if its current round of talks with the other parties is unsuccessful, Labour was more than likely to leave the government.

Following yesterday's meetings between Labour and delegations of SHAS and the National Religious Party [NRP], Labour sources said there is no chance that the NRP will support a motion for early elections. SHAS, on the other hand, appears to be wavering, the sources said.

Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz said following the meeting with Labour that the possibility of SHAS support for early elections "cannot be ruled out."

Party sources said last night that Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz would meet with Prime Minister Shamir today and ask for further clarifications on the Reform convert issue. The Council of Torah Scholars last night rejected any linkage between SHAS' return to the government and its positions vis-a-vis the international conference or early elections.

The NRP representatives, meanwhile, accused Labour of "ignoring" and "looking down on" the NRP in recent years. Minister Yosef Shapira told Labour that the NRP would continue to support the national unity government and warned Labour against abandoning the coalition.

Despite an NRP decision against the party's participation in a narrow government, several party leaders said last night that if Labour bolts the coalition, the NRP would reconsider its position and might possibly join a Likud-led coalition.

Labour is expected to ask both the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] and MAPAM to postpone the hearing of their motions of no-confidence over the government's handling of the peace process, which are due to be heard by the Knesset tomorrow.

The Likud yesterday shored up MK [Knesset Member] Aharon Abu Hatzera's opposition to early elections, promising him his TAMI [Traditional Movement, Israel] Party would be incorporated in the Likud with a realistic Knesset slot allotted to him.

The Likud's Friday agreement with SHAS, signed in a lopsided meeting between a solitary Peretz and a battery of Likud leaders, including Prime Minister Shamir, comes in the form of a five-paragraph letter from Likud to SHAS. The letter includes a SHAS undertaking to oppose an international conference and early elections in exchange for a Likud pledge to solve the Reform conversion problem by legislating one of three laws: "Who's a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return, the Rabbinical Courts Law or the 1972 Religion Conversion Ordinance.

The agreement was rejected by SHAS mentor Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef who claimed that the Likud pledge to deliver 38 out of its 41 Knesset votes in favour of the legislation did not assure its passage. Sources in SHAS interpreted last night's Council of Torah Scholars decision as a gambit aimed at extracting a higher political price from the Likud.

## Herut Movement Expels Former Cabinet Secretary

*TA170945 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 May 87 p 3*

[Report by Dorit Gefen]

[Text] At the end of last week the Herut Movement court decided to expel Arye Na'or, formerly Menahem Begin's cabinet secretary, from the Herut Movement.

The decision was made following Na'or's incorporation into the Foreign Ministry explanation [hasbara] team and because of his support for the international conference.

The claim made against Na'or in the court was that by his public positions regarding the conference and particularly by his joining the explanation team, he had crossed the red line and acted in complete contravention of the Herut Movement's last conference decisions, which completely rejected the idea of the international conference and even called for this idea to be foiled.

Arye Na'or is the son of former MK Ester Razi'el Na'or and the cousin of David Razi'el, the Irgun commander.

## JERUSALEM POST Looks at Peace Movements

*TA151115 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 May 87 p 5*

[Report by Daniel Gavron; words between slantlines printed in italics]

[Excerpt] Peace Now has booked Tel Aviv's Kikar Malkhey Yisra'el for Saturday evening, but it will only call a demonstration if there has been a significant development in the peace process, says 'Amiram Goldblum, one of the movement's most active leaders.

"The potential for a big demonstration is there," he maintains. "We are not scared of calling a big meeting — we can get at least 50,000 people in Kakar Malkhey Yisra'el — but we want to use it at the right time." Until the "right time," Peace Now is planning a series of vigils and smaller protest meetings, accompanied by a media campaign.

The leaders of the movement insist that they are not disappointed by the turn-out at Sunday night's demonstration in Jerusalem. "Anything over 500 would have been good, and we calculate that there were some 2,000," says Goldblum. "You have to remember that we haven't been on the streets for two years, and that it was a normal workday in Jerusalem — not Saturday night in Tel Aviv."

Goldblum points out that Peace Now is not a movement that makes its own initiatives, it reacts to situations. "We don't go and settle anywhere — nor do we send delegations to meet with Arab leaders," he notes. "We represent public opinion in encouraging the peace process."

The movement is not out to promote itself, he continues. If the members thought that they could best help the peace process by sitting at home, they would be happy to do so; but they think the time has come to speak out clearly. Currently, Peace Now is overhauling its organizational framework, getting its membership lists up to date, and preparing to act if the situation demands it.

Peace Now, as in the past, is run by a voluntary central council which meets in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and coordinates local committees all over the country. The movement still functions without an office and without a single paid official.

The basic policy of Peace Now has not changed since that famous letter of March 8, 1978, signed by 350 IDF reserve officers and men and which told Menahem Begin:

"A government that prefers settlements across the Green Line to the ending of the historic conflict will raise questions about the justice of our cause. A government policy that leads to continued rule over one million Arabs is likely to change the Jewish democratic nature of the state and would make it difficult for us to identify with the basic direction of the State of Israel."

Tzali Reshef, one of the authors of the letter and the movement's chief spokesman over the years, explains that by its very nature, Peace Now is a movement which has ups and downs, reaching climactic moments during Camp David and the Lebanon war.

"We don't yet know whether the current peace process is another high," he admits. "We are waiting to see what develops, and prodding the government towards peace. We have seen in the past that, when a genuine chance for peace emerges, Israeli public opinion changes dramatically."

Peace Now is prepared to support the peace process without the participation of the PLO; but most of the leadership believes that the PLO should be included, if it is prepared to take a clear stand renouncing terror, and state clearly that negotiations are the only way to solve the Palestinian problem.

They doubt whether Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is being realistic in thinking that Yasir 'Arafat can be completely bypassed. Prime Minister Shamir is probably right when he says that the PLO will be brought into the process at some stage, the movement's leaders believe, but if the PLO continues to support terror, they favour going ahead without it.

"Peres should not think we are supporting /his/ initiative," stresses Goldblum. "We support the /peace/ process — not the actions of one man. We want Israel to extricate itself from the 'swamp' of the occupied territories. I don't think the Alignment is talking enough about the danger of the occupation to Israel."

Goldblum says that Peace Now is in constant touch with other movements, such as Netivot Shalom, the religious peace movement, East for Peace, the Sephardi group, and representatives of the neighborhoods and development towns. He values these relationships but claims that Peace Now has a central role.

"In the past nine years, we have seen that it is Peace Now that brings out the large numbers," notes Reshef. "I think we have the ability to translate the feelings of the public into action in the street."

Even before Peace Now called its demonstration this week, East for Peace issued its own call to support the peace process, points out Shlomo Elbaz, who helped found the group in 1982. East for Peace was present, with other movements, at the Jerusalem rally, and it is a full partner in the current campaign, he says.

Quoting his movement's statement, Elbaz states that "a do-nothing policy" is the greatest enemy of peace. He calls on all Israelis — and in particular the inhabitants of deprived neighbourhoods and development towns — to support "the efforts now being made by some of our leaders to advance the peace process by means of an international peace conference."

There are encouraging signs of breakthrough, suggests Elbaz, and the historic opportunity for reconciliation must not be missed.

A similar message comes from Uri Simon of Netivot Shalom, which this week mounted a vigil outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem with its sister-movement 'Oz Veshalom. "Israel is facing its moment of truth," says Simon. "The question is simple: Are we prepared to compromise for peace? The issue of an international conference is a matter of procedure — it is not the issue."

The Yom Kippur War showed the danger of perpetuating the status quo, suggests Simon. It is much easier not to make difficult decisions; but also more dangerous.

"As religious Jews, we recognize the sacredness of the Land of Israel," he states. "But peace is a religious value and the saving of lives is also sacred. Relinquishing parts of the land is like an amputation; but sometimes you have to amputate to keep the body healthy." [passage omitted]

## April Index 2.2 Percent; Nisim Opposes Elections

*TA151129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 May 87*

[Text] The April cost-of-living index rose by 2.2 percent. Central Bureau of Statistics figures indicate that during April there were price hikes on all consumer products, particularly clothing, footwear, fruits and vegetables, and public transportation. Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the annual inflation rate stands at approximately 1.5 percent per month. The cost-of-living increment for the public sector employees will apparently be paid only in November. The economic ministries expect inflation figures in the next few months to be lower than the April rate. The Treasury has expressed satisfaction, saying that the index indicates that prices are stabilizing.

Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar says that early elections are the only way to prevent a resumption of inflation. Mr Qeysar says that the political uncertainty is undermining the economy. This is reported by our correspondent Tal Rabina.

Finance Minister Nisim said that in order to safeguard the process of economic recovery it is best that elections be held on their scheduled date, November 1988, rather than earlier. This is reported by our economic affairs correspondent. He added that Dov Lautman, president of the Manufacturers Association, welcomed the index, saying that now the government must concentrate on improving the trade balance by encouraging exports.

### Autonomy in Territories Discussed With PLO

*TA190607 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 May 87 p 1*

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Indirect contacts between Israeli Government circles and the PLO have recently been conducted to examine the PLO's position on the implementation of autonomy in the territories as outlined in the Camp David accords. Our correspondent has learned that the PLO wanted to know what the fate of state land would be under such autonomy. If the answer is that the state land will be administered by the autonomy institutions, the PLO might not oppose the arrangement.

Our correspondent draws attention to the fact that during the PNC meeting in Algeria it was learned that Minister Weizman and Yasir 'Arafat were in contact over the establishment of a confederation between Israel and the territories.

### Arab Students 'Furious' Over Tuition Decision

*TA180912 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 May 87 pp 1, 8*

[Report by Bernard Josephs and David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Furious Arab students last night declared a nationwide strike over the Cabinet's decision on university tuition fees. Ministers decided that students who are army veterans will pay $1,050 a year while those who do not serve — most of the nearly 4,000 Arab students — will be charged $1,550. Jewish student leaders strongly supported the Arab students' demand for equal tuition.

The decision was condemned as discriminatory by Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon. He declared that it was a threat to democracy and full of "serious implications" and called on Attorney General Yosef Harish to rule on whether the vote was legal.

A senior aide to the Education Minister said the Cabinet's ruling "clearly discriminates" against the minorities. He pointed out that a decision to give extra welfare benefits to army veterans only, had been overturned by the courts on such grounds.

The result of the cabinet vote, in which 12 Likud and religious party ministers voted for the new fees and 11 Alignment and allied ministers voted against, was greeted with a howl of protest by hundreds of students who demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday. [passage omitted]

### Alignment MK Quits Over Issue

*TA181104 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 May 87 p 1*

[Report by Muhammad Halilyah]

[Excerpts] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah of the Alignment announced yesterday that he is quitting the coalition in view of the Cabinet's decision on university tuition fees, which discriminates between Army veterans and those who did not serve in the IDF, namely, Arabs. [passage omitted]

Darawshah also submitted an urgent motion to the Knesset's agenda in which he states that the Cabinet decision represents an intentional national discrimination against Arab students. The decision reeks of racism and contravenes the Independence Charter and the coalition agreement, and for this reason he is calling on the Knesset to prevent its implementation.

### Peres Proposes Canal Cooperation With Jordan

*TA171057 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 May 87 p 3*

[Report by New York-based correspondent Avi Gan'or and Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] A new idea was recently proposed by Peres at a meeting with members of the economic task force: Jordanian-Israeli cooperation in establishing a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea Peres said: "Over the past few years the water level in the Dead Seahas suffered an appreciable drop and there are proposals for cooperation with our neighbor in establishing a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, to replenish it. This may be as important as the Suez Canal."

The idea surprised even the foreign minister's close aides. Spokesman Uri Savir explained that there was an intention to raise this proposal with the Jordanians in future negotiations. Arye Dulzin, who attended the meeting, dismissed the proposal. But British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Peres' confidants say, has heard the idea and supports it. The English regard the canal as having potential for energy production.

Knesset Member Yuval Ne'eman reacted to Peres' new initiative by saying: "He already said that nonsense to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations when they visited here. He does not know what he is talking about."

### Panamanian President Arrives; Received by Herzog

*TA171713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 May 87*

[Text] The two Jewish presidents currently in office in the world met in Jerusalem this evening. Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle arrived in Jerusalem this evening and was received in a state ceremony by Israeli President Hayim Herzog. The Panamanian president arrived at the head of a delegation that includes the minister of foreign affairs and the minister of commerce and industries.

### Speaks at Dinner

*PA181924 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 18 May 87 p 34*

[Report by Jose Lopez Palma]

[Text] Jerusalem, 17 May — "Our countries must act jointly to prevent the inequalities between rich and poor nations from

becoming an instrument of oppression or subjugation and to prevent the burden of the foreign debt from turning peoples from the path of freedom and democratic coexistence," Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle said at a dinner held by Israeli President Hayim Herzog last night at the presidential house on the occasion of Delvalle's 3-day visit to this Middle East country.

On his arrival yesterday at the Ben-Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, President Delvalle was met by acting Foreign Minister 'Ezer Weizman. They then went to the Rose Garden where he was welcomed by Israeli President Hayim Herzog.

Three newspapers, *The Jerusalem Post*, *Yedi'ot Aharonot*, and *Ma'ariv*, and Israeli radio and television reported President Delvalle's arrival and his 3-day stay during which he will attend various functions.

In his speech at the dinner held by President Herzog, the Panamanian president said regarding the foreign debt: "Another of the aspects of the Latin American problems which Israel is aware of, understands, and suffers, is the need for more realistic, just, and political formulas between the creditors and debtors in the face of the crushing situation that the foreign debt has created in our countries."

President Delvalle stressed that "it is essential that the world centers of power and wealth begin to be aware that their interests and the future of the democratic institutions of the world are threatened by the fact that the governments of our countries are forced to sacrifice the satisfaction of the basic needs of our peoples to maintain our credit image or to avoid financial disaster."

This does not represent the best solution to our immediate problem. He added that "child malnutrition, the lack of adequate medical care, the hopelessness of neglected peasants, and the frustration of urban unemployed, anywhere in the world, have no understanding of the rules of international finance nor will ever accept them as justification for misery and underdevelopment."

In his speech President Delvalle also said that "Israel and Panama must play a role of unique importance in strengthening world peace and in continuing the levels of freedom, mutual, respect, and self-determination that are irreplaceable conditions for the peaceful coexistence of peoples."

Referring to the impasse in the Central American crisis, President Delvalle stressed Panama's historic destiny to be the site "of discussions and resolution of the problems of peace and war." He indicated that "today, the harmony and peace of the Central American isthmus depends on the peace efforts of the Contadora Group." He added that "two Central American nations today see their economies and aspirations for development undermined by internal conflicts, and the other three nations, like the other Latin American countries, daily bear the brunt of the threat of a generalized war that would have unforseeable consequences."

President Delvalle also stressed that "conciliation of the deep differences between nations is possible, without imposition and violence, only when there is willingness to make mutual concessions and when the goal is the peaceful resolution of the controversies and not the defense of intransigent positions even at the risk of dooming the conciliatory efforts to failure."

It must be pointed out that the peace efforts of the Contadora Group, which was established in Panama in 1983, received Israel's support in 1984 when Yitzhaq Shamir visited Panama when he was vice prime minister and foreign minister.

## Zairian Defense Official Arrives, Meets Rabin

*AB152211 Paris AFP in French 2056 GMT 15 May 87*

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, 15 May (AFP) — General Likulia Bolongo, the Zairian secretary of state for defense and territorial security, today began a visit of several days to Israel, where he will be the guest of Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The Zairian and Israeli ministers had a first round of discussions this afternoon at the Defense Ministry headquarters in Tel Aviv, according to authoritative sources. General Mitzna, the commander of Israel's Central Region, participated in the discussion, which dealt with ways to strengthen military cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

## Talks With Shamir

*TA171420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 May 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will visit Zaire in West Africa next month and will confer with President Mobutu Sese Seko. In a meeting he held today with Zairian Secretary of Defense Likulia Bolongo, Mr Shamir said he hopes to take along on his trip Israel's replies to Zaire's aid requests.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Bolongo told the prime minister that Zaire is a pro-Western country surrounded by countries affiliated with the Eastern bloc and that consequently it was important that the West and Israel assist it in the fields of defense and credit. The prime minister promised that despite Israel's economic difficulties he will make every possible effort to help Zaire and would also seek the assistance of our friends in the United States to that end.

## ALGERIA

### Messaadia Holds Talks With Polisario Delegation

*LD190005 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee of the party, on Monday held talks at the premises of the Central Committee with a Polisario delegation led by Mohamed Abdelaziz, Polisario secretary general and president of the SDAR. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the situation in the region and current Arab issues. The meeting was attended by Brother Abdelrazzak Bouhara, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee and official in charge of foreign relations.

### Messaadia Interviewed on PLO, Economy, USSR

*PM181318 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 6 May 87 p 15*

[Interview with Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Politburo, by Francoise Germain-Robin in Algiers — date not given]

[Text][Germain-Robin] Algeria has just successfully contributed to the PLO's reunification. Is this a step toward rebuilding a degree of "Arab unity?"

[Messaadia] Algeria has always worked, is working, and will continue to work to achieve Arab unity. The Palestinian problem is an essential aspect of this. It will remain both a focal point and a source of disagreement.

Algeria is very acutely aware of the urgent need for Palestinian unity, and is convinced that only such unity will enable them to take serious, positive, responsible action in peace and war.

From our viewpoint, Palestinian unity ought in no way to prompt resentment, rejection, or aggression from any Arab country. Quite the reverse; it should enable the organization to clearly define its relations with its brothers, friends, and enemies on the basis of a responsible position. As in the past, Algeria will do all it can to achieve this. Backed by the Arab countries' good intentions, it will continue its action to ensure that the Palestinian people regain their usurped legitimate national rights and are able to build an independent state on their own territory like other oppressed people in the world.

[Germain-Robin] The PLO has asked for Algeria's help in reestablishing relations with Syria. What action do you plan to take in this connection?

[Messaadia] Algeria's position on the clarification of relations between the PLO and Syria is clear. It is well known. The disagreement between the PLO and Syria is superficial. The PLO and Syria are essentially united. They suffer as comrades in the same struggle from population displacement and occupation. It is their patriotic duty to support each other.

In fact, the PLO and Syria do not need an intermediary. They need to meet and talk. Algeria is available for any meeting with its Palestinian and Syrian brothers provided they both think that its participation is useful.

[Germain-Robin] The Algerian Government has adopted an austerity program because of the economic crisis. Is this not a threat to the country's socialist options?

[Messaadia] It must be remembered that the economic crisis is not a specifically Algerian phenomenon. It is an international problem, and, like any other country, Algeria is suffering its effects.

Being aware of the serious nature of the situation, Algeria has adopted numerous measures to tackle it. It started doing so back in 1980 with the implementation of the first 5-year plan. These provisions were stepped up with the second 5-year plan.

The economic crisis is not casting doubt on the Algerian revolution's fundamental options. This has been proven. Did we not consolidate these options by making them clearer and more specific in the National Charter adopted by the party congress at the end of 1985 and by the people in a referendum at the beginning of 1986?

Nonetheless the crisis is inevitably slowing the pace of development, limiting the speed of social change, and delaying the implementation of some social projects.

[Germain-Robin] There has been a great deal of talk in the French press about a liberal trend in Algeria, especially since the last FLN congress. What is the real position?

[Messaadia] It is true that this question has been discussed by the press from various viewpoints. Some newspapers see it as evidence that Algeria is abandoning its options. Others are anticipating events and stating that we have already abandoned our options. The real situation is entirely different.

We have taken steps — and will take more — to improve the national economy and rid it of all the negative factors which have built up during previous phases. The restructuring of enterprises, the organization of agriculture, financial autonomy, the mobilization of all the nation's potential, the struggle against waste, and so forth, are all effective measures to counter the effects of the crisis.

As you said in your question, the importance the country's political leadership attaches to the national private sector and to drafting new provisions for cooperation with foreign capital have been seen by the French press as evidence that we are backing down and questioning our options. These allegations are not directed at Algeria alone, but at the socialist community in general and China and the USSR in particular.

The truth is that in the past 20 years, in the absence of institutions, we feared the private sector and cooperation with foreign companies. We therefore took drastic steps on these relations and this cooperation.

But now, after the Fourth and Fifth FLN Congresses, and after completing the establishment of our institutions, we are convinced that, as a result of the existing laws and regulations, and their structures and the people who run them, these institutions are capable of cooperating with the national and foreign private sectors without fear or inhibitions. We are required to do this by the development of the national economy and the constantly changing new relationships in the world.

[Germain-Robin] What is your assessment of the USSR's policy and M. Gorbachev's new disarmament proposals?

[Messaadia] Algeria has struggled and is struggling with faith and constancy in all international forums for the establishment of peace and security in the world.

As a peace campaigner, I am pleased to join all free men in the world in welcoming these initiatives and all those that help remove the threat of war that hangs over mankind's future.

## LIBYA

### Ethiopian Minister Arrives as Presidential Envoy

*LD181700 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Ethiopian Minister of Culture Girma Yilma arrived in Tripoli today as the personal envoy of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to the brother leader of the revolution.

The personal envoy of the Ethiopian president stated that the purpose of his visit is to develop relations between the two friendly countries.

#### Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

*LD190909 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 19 May 87*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Girma Yilma, culture minister and personal envoy of the Ethiopian president, who has conveyed a written message to him.

Ethiopian Culture Minister Girma Yilma arrived in Tripoli yesterday as an envoy of Ethiopian President Mengitsu Haile Mariam to the brother leader of the revolution. The personal envoy of the Ethiopian president stated that his visit comes within the framework of developing relations between the two friendly countries.

### Cultural Cooperation Program Signed With USSR

*LD182041 Tripoli JANA in English 1730 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Tripoli, al Maa [May] 18, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — This morning, signing took place on an executive programme for cultural cooperation between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Great Jamahiriyah and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the years 1987-1990 at the headquarters of the Secretariat of General People's Committee for Education and Scientific Research in Tripoli.

The signing on the programme between both friendly countries comes within the context of the cultural cooperation between Great Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union.

## SUDAN

### Parties Comment on Formation of New Government

#### Government Announcement

*JN151124 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1028 GMT 15 May 87*

[Text] Khartoum, 15 May (SUNA) — The Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party have agreed to set up a joint committee to consider the formation of a new government after the State Council makes a decision under which [words indistinct], according to the daily *Al-Ayyam* published here today. An announcement on the formation of the new government will be made next week and probably on Tuesday if things go according to schedule, *Al-Ayyam* said, citing the government spokesman. He said that was the most suitable decision given the recent developments.

The spokesman emphasized that there was complete agreement between the two parties [words indistinct]. Responsibility for performance of the government lies with the prime minister and therefore he made this [word indistinct] decision, the spokesman added.

New appointments will made at the Ministries of [word indistinct], Foreign Affairs, and Labor [words indistinct], the spokesman said. He welcomed the formation of a national government grouping all the country's political factions rather than a single party.

The spokesman said that the prime minister will name new ministers to replace those in the ministries that will be affected.

*Al-Ayyam* reported that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced that the new government lineup will be set up as soon as possible, indicating that [words indistinct] is awaiting the State Council's decision on the matter to discuss it before forming a government capable of handling the issues.

The prime minister announced that he will call a press conference after the State Council issues its decision to answer all questions.

Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Minister of Trade Muhammad Yusuf Abu Harirah did not turn up for the last cabinet meeting, nor did they [words indistinct], *Al-Ayyam* reported.

#### Political Leaders' Reaction

*JN151424 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 May 87*

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 15 May (WAKH) — Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said he will form a new government

as soon as possible. Al-Mahdi has asked the State Council to dissolve the present government.

In a statement published in the newspaper *Al-Khalij* today, Al-Mahdi said the next Sudanese Government will be formed of a team which can cope with current issues. He said he will hold a news conference after the State Council's decision to answer all queries.

In the meantime, Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic National Front [INF], has said that the INF will join the new government if its conditions are met. In statements published here today, Al-Turabi said the government's failure only 1 year after its formation has created a serious crisis in the political reconstruction process. This crisis, he said, poses a danger to the democratic system and urges all of us to make a national appraisal of our political conditions.

Asked about the bases on which new ministers should be chosen, Al-Turabi said: The best guarantee is first to arrive at a clear program of action, and then to choose the ministers who will implement this program. Furthermore, the choice should not be based on party considerations but on competence, experience, and honesty.

Al-Tijani al-Tayyib, member of the Central Committee of the Sudanese Communist Party and chief editor of the party paper *Al-Maydan*, said the party is currently holding intensive open and secret contacts to learn the truth of the present situation. The party will then issue a comprehensive statement early next week, he said.

Regarding the formation of a new government, Al-Tijani al-Tayyib said: We have not asked to join this government. We feel a new government will be the outcome of a true balance of the existing forces in the local arena and also of the outside arena, both of which influence the course of Sudanese life and party and parliamentary alliances.

Samuel Aru, leader of the Southern Sudanese Political Association, said: We wanted the government to be disolved a long time ago because it failed miserably in achieving political stability and restoring peace to the country.

Aru added that, if the new government is not based on a work program, it will not succeed, and the Sudanese citizen will have to bear the results. Aru expressed his party's desire to participate in choosing the leaders of the new government, saying: We are doing our best to implement the peace program and to persuade officials to accept it.

### Al-Hindi Calls for Elections

*JN171115 Khartoum SUNA in English*
*1020 GMT 17 May 87*

[Text] Khartoum, May 17 (SUNA).....Foreign Minister and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Secretary General al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi has called for the running of a new general elections in the country as way out from the current political crisis which he described as the crisis of ruling which would only be solved by touching the main problem rather than changing faces or names.

In a speech published by the daily *Al-Ayyam* today Al-Hindi indicated that the practising of ruling during the past period was accompanied by failure and fiasco due to the inherited accumulating problems which posed great obstacle for conclusively facing the country's major challenges.

The government's parties had promised before being in office to implement the people's slogans but they failed to fulfill the promises, he said.

Al-Hindi called for the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly and the running of general elections.

### Southern Parties Comment

*JN161849 Khartoum SUNA in English*
*1718 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] Khartoum, May 16 (SUNA) — The Southern Sudan Forces Association said that the recent relief of the Cabinet will create a good atmosphere for the formation of a better and harmonious government for the sake of realizing an effective administration all over the country.

The Association in a statement here today called for forming as quickly as possible the new government and for paving the way for the uprooting of all the economic and social obstacles which hinder the prevailing of peace and the convening of the constitutional conference.

The Southern Sudan Political Forces Association embraces the Progressive People's Party, the Federal People's Party, the Sudanese African Congress Party and SANU [Sudanese African National Union] Party.

### Prime Minister To Visit Yugoslavia 1-4 Jun

*JN150839 Khartoum SUNA in English*
*1718 GMT 14 May 87*

[Text] Khartoum, May 14 (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is to visit Yugoslavia on next June 1-4 in response to an invitation extended by the Yugoslav Government, it was announced here Thursday.

Premier al-Mahdi is scheduled to discuss with the Yugoslav officials during his visit the bilateral relations and means of their promotion in addition to regional and international issues of common interest.

Meanwhile the joint Sudanese-Yugoslav ministerial committee is expected to meet here during the last week of May to review and follow up the progress of bilateral relations and work out the best means of their promotion.

**Reduction of State Council Members Denied**
*JN181600 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1452 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Khartoum, 18 May (SUNA) — Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, State Council member and member of the committee for assessing the performance of government departments, has denied there is a plan to reduce the number of State Council members to three. Answering a question by SUNA, he said the State Council members were elected by the Constituent Assembly under Article 76 of the Transitional Constitution, which stipulates that the State Council is made up of a chairman and four members.

**'Foreigners' Said Taking Part in Rebel Movement**
*EA181841 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 May 87*

[From "The People's Armed Forces" program]

[Text] Our reliable sources are able to confirm that a number of foreigners participated with the rebel movement in the current military operation in the Jokau area on the Ethiopian border. During these battles in the Jokau area, a Cuban doctor supporting and assisting the rebel forces was injured. He was immediately evacuated in an attempt to remove any trace of his participation with the rebels.

It is noteworthy that Cuban units are participating in the training operations of the rebel forces in Ethiopia. A number of them have been seen in rebel camps in (Bulghan) and at other sites.

**SPLA Reports 40 Killed in Clash With Militias**
*EA182220 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 May 87*

[Excerpt] Combined SPLA forces of Eagle Battalion and Abyei Task Force and units from Jamus, Twik-Twik, Azuq Battalions under the overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Chul Ayamak and under the direct command of First Lieutenant (Awey Mahet) clashed with enemy militias at Mape Aluat. The enemy sustained heavy casualties in both men and materiel. Our correspondent says that more than 40 enemy militiamen and 2 of their camels were killed, and the remnants ran in disarray to Abyei Town. [passage omitted]

# ETHIOPIA

## Zimbabwe's Mugabe Continues Official Visit

### Talks Held With Mengistu

*EA181520 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the WPE Central Committee, chairman of the PMAC, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, yesterday held official talks with Comrade Robert Mugabe, first secretary and president of the ZANU-PF and prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The talks between the two leaders centered on the strengthening of bilateral relations as well as on the contribution of the friendly and socialist countries toward promoting issues of African and world peace.

The high-level Ethiopian delegation which attended the talks included: Comrade Fiseha Desta, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPE Central Committee; Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Geremew Debele, member of the WPE Central Committee and minister of agriculture; and Comrade Major General Haile Giorgis Habte Mariam, member of the WPE Central Committee and minister of national defense.

On the Zimbabwe side, the talks were attended by Comrade Maurice Nyagumbo, member of the Political Bureau of the ZANU-PF in charge of administration in the Commissariat, minister of state for political affairs and coordination of cooperatives; Comrade Ernest Kadungure, member of the Political Bureau of the ZANU-PF and minister of state for defense in the prime minister's office; Comrade Dr Witness Mangwende, member of the Central Committee of ZANU-PF, deputy secretary for external relations of the party, and minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Moven Mahachi, member of the Central Committee of the ZANU-PF and minister of land, agriculture, and rural settlement; and other officials.

Meanwhile, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam yesterday decorated Comrade Robert Gabriel Mugabe with the Order of the Grand Star of Honor of Socialist Ethiopia in recognition of his dedication and farsighted leadership, and in appreciation of the relentless efforts he exerted for peace, independence, justice, and equality.

Comrade Mengistu said on the occasion that the PMAC resolved to confer upon Comrade Robert Mugabe the award in tribute to the determined and vanguard role he had played and continues to play in the struggle for the eradication of colonialism and the odious system of apartheid from the southern part of Africa.

In his reply, Comrade Robert Mugabe said his delegation and the entire Zimbabwe nation stand obligated that at this moment in history when a great friend and great people do them great honor. Recalling the support given by revolutionary Ethiopia, Comrade Mugabe said, the Ethiopian nation came to Zimbabwe's assistance during the moment of tribulation by mobilizing the Ethiopian people to assist Zimbabweans at critical moments in the history of their struggle. Under Comrade Mengistu's victorious leadership, he said, the people responded to the clarion call of the struggle for the liberation of Zimbabwe and Ethiopia's all-round and total support were the vital linchpins in the success of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle.

### Mugabe Ends Visit, Departs

*EA182245 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Comrade Robert Mugabe, first secretary and president of the ZANU and prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe, left Addis Ababa today for home upon concluding a 4-day state visit to revolutionary Ethiopia. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the WPE, chairman of the PMAC, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, gave a comradely send-off to Comrade Mugabe on his departure from Bole International Airport.

Present at the send-off ceremony were Comrade Fiseha Desta, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPE, members and alternate members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the WPE, ministers, members of the Central Committee of the WPE, ambassadors and representatives of various countries in revolutionary Ethiopia, representatives of international organizations, the ambassadors of the two countries, as well as members of the Zimbabwean community in Addis Ababa. The guard of honor presented arms and the national anthems of the two countries were played. Comrade Mugabe accompanied by Comrade Mengistu received the guard of honor, which later staged a march-past.

### Cooperation Agreements Signed

*EA182258 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] At the end of Zimbabwe Prime Minister Comrade Mugabe's visit, an agreement covering bilateral economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation was signed at the National Palace today. Asefa Seyoum, a correspondent for the *Ethiopian News Agency*, has the following report from the National Palace:

[Seyoum] In a ceremony at the National Palace, an agreement for strengthening economic, cultural, and scientific ties between Ethiopia and Zimbabwe was signed for Ethiopia by Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo and foreign affairs minister.

Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, secretary of the WPE Central Committee, signed an agreement providing for closer relations between the parties of the two countries. The two accords were signed for Zimbabwe by Comrade Dr Mangwende, deputy secretary of the ZANU Central Committee for foreign relations and foreign minister.

### Joint Communique Issued

*EA182306 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Zimbabwe and revolutionary Ethiopia issued a joint communique today on Comrade Robert Mugabe's visit to revolutionary Ethiopia. Darius Modi gives us the details:

[Modi] Revolutionary Ethiopia and the Republic of Zimbabwe affirmed that they stand with and support the struggle being waged by the people of southern Africa against the apartheid regime. In this regard, the two countries stated that the recent whites-only election in South Africa was unacceptable. The joint communique repeated their international call for economic sanctions to be imposed on the racist ruling class in Pretoria.

The two countries condemned the illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist regime in Pretoria and said the unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 on this matter was an acceptable program for Namibian independence. The two leaders denounced the rulers in Pretoria for their direct and indirect invasion — using rebel proxies — of its neighbors.

They called on the international community to support these countries through the Africa Financial Aid Organization. They made this appeal in line with the resolution of the eighth meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, which was intended to enable them to withstand invasions and foil the conspiracies against them. The two leaders called on the international community to help the liberation fronts in southern Africa and the Namibian people strengthen their ongoing armed struggle.

As for the strengthening of relations between the two states, they agreed on the establishment of a joint commission, in accordance with Article 9 of the economic, technical, scientific, and cultural agreement signed in 1982, which will (?coordinate) their affairs.

Regarding the charters of the OAU, the United Nations, and the Nonaligned Movement, the two leaders reaffirmed their sincere belief in the inviolability of territorial integrity, respect for national unity, and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states.

On bilateral relations, they expressed satisfaction with the extremely good ties between them. They added that they were pleased with the contribution made by their parties to the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, and racism, and for world peace and security.

Turning to Africa's severe economic crisis, they stated that the implementation of the program formulated by the 21st OAU session and the United Nations on the improvement and development of Africa's economy, as well as the program on cooperation between developing countries, is essential.

The joint communique stated that Comrade Robert Mugabe highly appreciated and felt indebted to the people of revolutionary Ethiopia for their useful material and diplomatic support during Zimbabwe's fight for national independence. Comrade Mugabe also approved of revolutionary Ethiopia's backing and firm stand behind those waging a just struggle to throw off the yoke of oppression and exploitation imposed on them by colonialists and imperialists.

As for the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Comrade Robert Mugabe noted the ongoing activities, which were being carried out in a disciplined manner and expressed his good wishes to the government and people of revolutionary Ethiopia.

Concerning the Horn of Africa, Comrade Mugabe voiced his admiration for the untiring efforts made by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam and the goodwill he has shown in holding talks with Somalia. It was noted in the joint communique that Comrade Robert Mugabe said that revolutionary Ethiopia and Zimbabwe fully believed in the implementation of the OAU resolution stating that countries should honor the borders they had at the time of independence, as this was crucial to the existence of goodneighborliness, peace, and close relations among African countries.

## SOMALIA

### Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

*EA181813 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 17 May 87*

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir arrived in Mogadishu this afternoon. Shaykh Sabah is on a special visit to Somalia. [passage omitted]

## UGANDA

### Museveni Addresses Graduating Military Personnel

*EA181351 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 17 May 87*

[Text] President Yoweri Museveni has today attended a military passing-out parade at Kabamba Military Training School. Addressing the soldiers who have just completed their basic training, the president said the government intends to improve the terms of service for the Armed Forces. He explained that the newly announced economic policy contains new currency changes meant to restore the value of the Uganda shilling. He also reiterated the NRM [National Resistance Movement] government's determination to avoid extravagancy and to be economical on the scarce foreign exchange.

The president informed the soldiers that the NRM government intends to build an efficient, modern national Army by progressively improving its quality. He pointed out that it is the first time in the history of Uganda that the Army has passed out soldiers recruited from all parts of the country. This type of recruitment, he said, is an important step in the building of the type of Army we need, and it will continue.

The president reminded the soldiers that as they go out from the school, they must remember to always keep discipline. He told them to show their harshness only to the enemy, never to the

civilian population, whose lives and property it is their duty to protect.

The president was welcomed to the school by the commander of the Kabamba Training Wing, Commander Kiiza.

### Currency Exchange Under Way Throughout Country

*EA181357 Kampala Domestic Service in English*
*0700 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Currency exchange is under way throughout Uganda. The exercise will last 10 days. Reports from all over the country speak of a big turnout at banks and exchange points set up in various parts of the country. More than 500 exchange points have been set up to speed the change of currency.

### Minister Denies Kenyans Traveled Through to Libya

*EA161744 Kampala Domestic Service in English*
*1000 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] Three Kenyans alleged to have been killed in Uganda by men in NRA [National Resistance Army] uniform over Easter have been introduced before the members of the press in Kampala. A Kenyan newspaper, the *Daily Nation*, of 11 May 1987, had alleged that Mr Onyango Ogara, working with the Nabitende Sawmill, together with his two wives, Mary and Anastasia, had been killed over Easter.

Addressing newsmen in Kampala, the minister of state in the president's office, Mr Balaki Kirya, declared that as far as Uganda is concerned, it has no grudge against the people and the Government of Kenya. He said the Uganda Government will continue to treat the people of Kenya as brothers and sisters.

The minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Mayanja, castigated what he called a highly orchestrated press campaign against Uganda. He said good relations between Uganda and Kenya are beneficial to both countries and people and whoever tries to interrupt these is trying to bring suffering to the people.

The minister again repeated the statement he made this week that there are no Kenyans and Zairians that have gone to Libya through Uganda with or without Ugandan travel documents. Kenyan newspapers had alleged that 200 Kenyans had traveled to Libya through Uganda.

Speaking to the members of the press, Mr Onyango Ogara said he had never experienced any harassment from any armed people and that he first learnt of the news of his alleged death from Nambale Police Post. Mr Onyango has been in Uganda since he was 15 years [as heard] in 1941.

## CAR

### Judge Seeks Extension in Bokassa Trial

*AB151230 Paris AFP in French 1839 GMT 14 May 87*

[Excerpt] Bangui, 14 May (AFP) — The president of the Bangui criminal court, Edouard Frank, announced yesterday that he has asked the justice minister for another extension of the current court session, which is to be devoted entirely to the trial of former Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa. The current session is scheduled to end on 15 May, but owing to the delay in the trial for mismanagement of funds, with which the deposed emperor has been charged, it should now end, according to observers, around the close of May. Mr Frank said the decision will be made public on Friday. [passage omitted]

## CHAD

### Habre Receives Gabonese Presidential Adviser

*AB180917 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Chadian Head of State El Hadj Hissein Habre granted an audience last night to a Gabonese emissary and adviser to President Omar Bongo. The audience lasted an hour. The Gabonese envoy did not comment on his meeting with President Habre, but the two men are believed to have discussed the border dispute between Chad and Libya. It should be recalled that the Gabonese capital recently hosted the OAU ad hoc committee meeting on the Chadian conflict.

### Delegation Leaves for MPR Celebrations in Zaire

*AB170908 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 17 May 87*

[Text] A delegation from the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] Central Committee made up of (Kassiri Koumakoye), commissioner for economy and finance, and (Sik Abdoulaye), a member of the Central Committee, has left Ndjamena for Zaire. The group will represent our country at celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the MPR, which will run from 19 to 21 May.

## ZAIRE

### Cooperation Discussed With Angolan Ambassador

*AB161815 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1555 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] Kinshasa, 16 May (AZAP) — Bilateral cooperation between Kinshasa and Luanda was at the center of talks today between Citizen Kabala Kisekaseka, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Miguel Gaspar Neto, ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola to Zaire. In a short statement to the press, the Angolan diplomat said the repair of the Benguela Railroad would help put an end to the landlocked state of his country [as received] and Zaire.

Zaire and Angola, which confer through the deliberations of their joint commissions, meeting alternately in Luanda and Kinshasa, are linked by a number of cooperation agreements in the fields of economy, commerce, transport, security, fisheries, and culture.

### Foreign Delegations Arrive for MPR Anniversary

#### Egypt's Ghali Makes Statement

*AB171016 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0800 GMT 17 May 87*

[Text] Kinshasa, 17 May (AZAP) — Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Kinshasa this morning to take part in the 40th session of the Undugu Group, being held from 18 through 21 May, and to attend celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the MPR. He has also brought a message of friendship and solidarity from President Husni Mubarak to Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko.

Butrus Ghali pointed out that within the Undungu Group, Egypt intends to implement the Lagos Plan of Action on fostering "inter-African," South-South cooperation on the bilateral, regional, and continental levels, and in the fields of economy, culture, and science.

The Egyptian official went on to say that relations between Egypt and Zaire are excellent and that the two heads of state exchange views regularly. He added that the prospects for Zairian-Egyptian cooperation are good. The same is true for continued exchanges of opinions on the economic crisis and the situation in South Africa and Namibia. As for his participation in the celebrations of 20 May, Mr Ghali stated that his country wants to establish multifaceted ties with Zaire. It is against this background that a group of security officials from the two countries will meet in Cairo in June. They will consider the theme: "The fight against crime and drug sales in Africa."

The Egyptian minister of state, who was welcomed by the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Citizen Kabala Kisekaseka, is accompanied by General Mahmoud Mahadi, deputy chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces Defense Staff, representing Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense.

#### Comoran Minister Comments

*AB171230 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0757 GMT 17 May 87*

[Text] Kinshasa, 17 May (AZAP) — The Comoran minister of interior and information, Omar Tamou, arrived in Kinshasa this morning to take part in festivities marking the MPR's 20th anniversary. In comments to AZAP, he said his presence in Zaire shows the solidarity and friendship between the Zairian and Comoran heads of state.

He also noted that his stay in Zaire is all the more significant in light of his status as the second most important political personality in his country. He explained that his trip will undoubtedly strengthen the bonds of cooperation between the Comoro Islands and Zaire.

## GHANA

### University of Ghana To Reopen After Disturbances

*AB182228 Accra Domestic Service in English*
*2200 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] The University of Ghana will reopen on Friday, the 22d of this month, in the interest of the majority of students who took no active part in the recent disturbances and for the sake of those who may qualify to enter the university next academic year.

This was one of the decisions agreed upon today at a meeting in Accra between a government team and the chairpersons of the university councils, and the vice chancellors of the three universities. The meeting was the latest in a series of meetings held since the closure of the University of Ghana on May 8.

The government team emphasized the political and subversive aspects of the agitation which had necessitated decisive intervention to avert lawlessness.

The other decisions agreed upon were that the university councils will strictly enforce all regulations and statutes and take disciplinary action against any student who violates the laid down rules, including acts of intimidation and thuggery towards other students and misusing the NUGS [National Union of Ghana Students] and other student organizations for purposes of mischievous agitation and subversive activities.

An official statement said, following an appeal by the chairpersons of the councils for a reconsideration of the cases of the dismissed students, the secretary for education and culture took note of the appeal and agreed to study their case jointly with the university councils whilst emphasizing the gravity of the acts leading to their dismissals.

### Iran's Besharati Arrives With Khamene'i Message

*AB181950 Accra Domestic Service in English*
*1800 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] An Iranian delegation, led by the vice minister for foreign affairs, Mr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, is in Accra to deliver a special message from President Khamene'i to the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings.

Mr Besharati told newsmen on arrival that the delegation will also hold talks with the Ghanaian authorities on economic and political issues. He said Iran, being an oil exporting country, stands in a position to assist other friendly nations like Ghana. On relations between the two countries, Mr Besharati said both Ghana and Iran have embarked on revolutionary processes and the links which exist between them call for regular interaction to advance their revolutions.

According to Mr Besharati, the visit is in return to one made by a Ghanaian delegation to Tehran early this year.

The delegation was met on arrival by the deputy secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Mohamed Chambas.

### Received by Rawlings

*AB182149 Accra Domestic Service in English*
*2000 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] The Iranian delegation which arrived in Accra today has delivered a special message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, at the Castle, Osu. The delegation, led by the vice minister for foreign affairs, Mr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, and Chairman Rawlings held private talks.

Speaking to newsmen later, Mr Besharati said he briefed Chairman Rawlings on the latest developments in the Gulf. He also discussed with the leader of the revolution matters of interest to both nations.

Mr Besharati said Iran supports the revolutionary position adopted by Ghana. His country will, furthermore, like to increase its cooperation with Ghana in the fields of politics, economics, culture, as well as other areas of mutual interest. Ghana, Mr Besharati declared, can count on Iran for support in all fields.

Present at the meeting were the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, his under secretary, Dr Mohamed Chambas, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Ghana, Mr S.S. Kharaghani.

### Three Arrested for 'Seditious Activities'

*AB172124 Accra Domestic Service in English*
*2000 GMT 17 May 87*

[Text] Three leading members of the New Democratic Movement and the Kwame Nkrumah Revolutionary (?Guard) were placed in custody today by the police and are being investigated for seditious activities. They are Akoto Ampaw, Adu Amankwaa, and Kwesi Prah.

### Delegation Leaves for Ivory Coast Border Meeting

*AB181625 Accra Domestic Service in English*
*1300 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] An eight-man government delegation has flown to Abengourou, in Cote d'Ivoire [Ivory Coast], to attend the 14th session of the Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire Border Redemarcation Commission. The delegation is led by the chairman of the commission, Mr Ebo Bentsi-Enchill.

Speaking to newsmen before departure, Mr Bentsi-Enchill said the session will review, among other things, the progress of the commission's work during the past year and draw up a program of action for 1988. The commission meets each year with the venue alternating between the two countries.

Ghana's team, which will be away for a week, includes Mr Idrissu Abu, director of surveys and vice chairman of the commission.

## IVORY COAST

### French Minister Ends Visit With News Conference

*LD161903 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] The French minister for external trade is ending his visit to the Ivory Coast. Michel Noir was received by President Houphouet-Boigny and this morning he held a news conference. Our correspondent Brigitte Pierard was there:

[Pierard] Mr Noir's talks with President Houphouet-Boigny and several members of his government centered on bilateral relations and on current major economic and financial problems which directly affect the Ivory Coast — the drop in the price of raw materials and indebtedness. Foreign policy questions were also raised with President Houphouet-Boigny, but, Michel Noir said neither the recent visit to Abidjan by the leader of the National Front, who was attacked by the minister a few days ago in his statement to *Le Monde*, nor the immigration problem, were discussed. Recalling that a certain waiting game was being played as regards French investment in the Ivory Coast, the minister stressed the importance of strengthening the partnership by means of stepping up trade missions by businessmen in both France and the Ivory Coast. Michel Noir also said that Ivory Coast backs the French proposals in the area of indebtedness, which go beyond the traditional solutions of debt rescheduling by making provision for the elimination of the debts of the least developed countries.

France will round up its partners, to use the expression employed by Michel Noir, to argue the Third World's case, which includes the stabilization of raw material prices, in all international organizations where it can use its influence.

## LIBERIA

### Newspaper Reports USSR To Reopen Embassy

*AB181752 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Monrovia, May 18 (AFP) — Five top Soviet Foreign Ministry officials are in Monrovia to reopen Moscow's diplomatic mission in the West African country, the *Daily Observer* newspaper reported here Monday.

The officials arrived at the weekend and are to meet Liberian Foreign Ministry officials later Monday, the paper said.

The paper quoted a Soviet spokesman here as saying: "Names of Soviet Embassy officials will be released Monday if authorization is granted by the Liberian Foreign Ministry."

Liberian Foreign Minister Bernard Blamo said on Monday that "As soon as President Samuel Doe has approved the Foreign Ministry's list of diplomats to serve in Moscow, the Liberian Embassy there could be reopened."

Monrovia broke official relations with Moscow on July 18, 1985 and gave Soviet diplomats 72 hours to leave the country following the arrest of 14 Liberian students who, the authorities said, had been spying for the Soviet Union. The authorities said the students had provided the Soviets with information concerning military installations in the West African state. The Soviet Foreign Ministry denied the charges and said the expulsions were ordered "false pretexts." [sentence as received]

However Monrovia resumed diplomatic relations with Moscow last [words indistinct].

The Polish Embassy looked after Soviet interests in Liberia during the three years of strained relations between Monrovia and Moscow.

### Finance Minister Outlines 8-Point Recovery Plan

*AB152150 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 2000 GMT 15 May 87*

[Text] The minister of finance today announced an eight-point program of action designed to improve the Liberian economy. According to the *Liberian News Agency* [LINA], under the program government expenditures will be kept within the limit of the national budget, and no expenditure would be offset against total revenue intake. Making the disclosure today, Finance Minister John Bestman said the payment of salaries would be a priority in the disbursement of government funds. He said no contract would be undertaken or signed unless the appropriate fundings were secured in the budget and that there were to be no refinancing of government contracts.

Mr Bestman said all government procurements must be in direct consonance with the centralized purchasing system under the general services agency, and on a competitive basis, except the purchasing of military hardware. According to the program, all taxpayers must meet their obligations to government and on time, including all officials of government, Mr Bestman stressed.

Mr Bestman then said that recent economic war declared by government would eliminate waste in government and ensure that the nation's scarce resources be prioritized in order to (?enable) government to render needed services to the people. According to the program, anyone caught conniving with the intent to defraud government would be considered an enemy of the Liberian people, and would be treated accordingly.

Mr Bestman has, meanwhile, appealed to all business establishments in the country, citizens, as well as media executives for support and cooperation to ensure the successful implementation of the program. He assured that the new economic recovery measures being instituted by government were in no way intended to create new taxes, but rather were designed to help lessen the tax burdens on the Liberian people.

In a related development, Finance Minister Bestman has disclosed that three working committees have been set up within the Finance Ministry to assist government in its drive toward fiscal discipline. According to Minister Bestman, the committees include the one on revenue and related matters, expenditure control, and concessions in the private sector. Minister Bestman has urged business partners to be considerate in maintaining the

prices of their commodities at affordable levels, and appealed to exporters to comply with the 25 percent export earning surrender requirement by government. He also appealed to banking institutions in the country to become more responsive to the needs of the Liberian people, and to transact fairly with their customers, while those indebted to financial institutions must meet their obligations.

Information Minister J. Emmanuel Bowier, LINA's deputy director, and the president of the Press Union of Liberia, (Lamini Warrati), were among journalists present at the conference held at a local restaurant.

## NIGER

### Algerian Envoy Delivers Bendjedid Message

*AB151515 Niamey Domestic Service in French*
*1200 GMT 15 May 87*

[Text] General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, held talks this morning with Algerian Minister of State Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, who delivered a message from Algerian President Colonel Chadli Bendjedid.

[Begin Abdelghani recording] President Kountche granted me an audience .his morning, which I used to delivered a message from President Bendjedid. It deals with bilateral relations and contacts. The president asked me to deliver a message to President Bendjedid on my arrival in Algiers this evening. As part of the traditional ties binding our two countries, this is a very positive step, as it enables us to find real solutions for some of our continent's real problems. [end recording]

## NIGERIA

### Babangida Reiterates Vow To Hand Over Power

*AB182202 Kaduna Domestic Service in English*
*1700 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] The Federal Government says it will not accept any future political institutional arrangement which will loot the public treasury. In a message to the opening of the fourth annual conference of the Political Science Association of Nigeria in Zaria today, the president, Major General Ibrahim Babangida, also said the government would not endorse any arrangement which breeds fanaticism to disrupt the cooperative [word indisitinct] of the country. The president gave some conditions the military administration would not condone during the period of transition, which include banditry.

General Babangida reiterated the determination of the government to hand over power to elected representatives at the appropriate date. The president was represented by the chief of Army Staff, Maj Gen Sanni Abacha.

In his address, the president of the association, Professor Amodah, noted that regimes change, but there was always administrative continuity within any given system.

Professor Amodah remarked that the nation's political history from 1960 to date could be said to be full of problems. He asked the government to find solutions by evolving an eclectical method.

Earlier, the vice chancellor of the university, Prof Adamu Mohamed, noted that the theme of the conference, political transition, was relevant to the present situation in the country. He asked participants to [words indistinct] suggestions to government on the transition of the country to civil rule.

### Cooperation Protocol Signed With Yugoslavia

*AB151910 Lagos Domestic Service in English*
*1500 GMT 15 May 87*

[Text] Nigeria and Yugoslavia today signed a protocol to intensify cooperation between them in a number of fields, including agriculture, energy, petroleum, and mining. The accord is also to strengthen trade exchanges, industrial development, and joint venture arrangements. The protocol marked the end of the seventh session of the Nigeria-Yugoslavia joint commission which opened in Lagos on Monday [11 May].

During the talks, the Yugoslav delegation showed interest in financing export-oriented industries in Nigeria. The Yugoslavs expressed readiness to go into joint ventures and cofinancing arrangements in Nigeria.

The minister of finance, Dr Chu Okongwu, who signed the protocol for Nigeria, stressed the need for both countries to gear efforts toward concretizing the areas agreed upon. On Yugoslavia's preparedness to invest in Nigeria, Dr Okongwu said the Nigerian economy had a lot of untapped potential and that any efforts to strengthen the small- and medium-scale industrial sector through the injection of funds will be invaluable.

The leader of the Yugoslav delegation, Radovan Makic, pledged his government's support toward the implementation of Nigeria's economic program, especially in the transfer of technology.

### Newspapers Consider Cameroon Border Issue

*AB181049 Lagos Domestic Service in English*
*0600 GMT 18 May 87*

[From the press review]

[Text] Three papers, *The Nigerian Observer*, the *Daily Star*, and the *Statesman*, focus on the recent military incursion into Nigerian territory by Cameroonian soldiers. It is against this development that the papers welcome the Federal Government's directives to state governors to take military actions against any neighboring African state trying to invade the country. *The Observer* enumerates past aggressions on Nigeria by neighboring countries and contends that such (?stands) cannot contribute to transnational solidarity. It therefore wants the new order by the Federal Government to be carried out to the letter to forestall future unprovoked attacks on Nigeria by her neighbors.

The *Star* on its part says it is fully pleased with the level of diplomatic maturity exhibited by Nigeria and Cameroon in handling the unfortunate situation. The paper feels that care must be taken to draw a line between a deliberate act of aggression and the misdemeanor of a few border guards trying to cause havoc for selfish ends. The *Star* calls for a high-powered Nigeria-Cameroon border commission to give the present reported harassment and incursion the thorough investigation it demands.

The *Statesman*, while recalling similar attacks by the Cameroonian troops in the past, wants the Federal Government to take immediate steps to install a permanent military presence in all the border areas of the country to check the menace of belligerent neighboring countries.

**Debt Rescheduling Accord Signed With UK**
*AB181918 Paris AFP in English 1905 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Lagos, May 18 (AFP) — Nigerian Finance Minister Chu Okongwu and British High Commissioner Sir Martin Ewans Monday signed an agreement on rescheduling the guaranteed Nigerian debt to Britain, informed sources said here.

The accord, initialed in London on March 24, bears on payments due between October 1 last year and next December 1, officials said. They did not indicate the amount of the rescheduled debt.

## MOZAMBIQUE

### Lusophone Conference Representatives Arrive

*MB180631 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] The foreign ministers of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, and Cape Verde arrived in Maputo today to take part in a ministerial meeting to prepare for the summit of leaders of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries. The meeting begins today.

In a statement, Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso van Dunem Mbinda said that cooperation among the five states is positive, despite the aggression suffered by Angola and Mozambique. A SWAPO representative arrived in Maputo yesterday to take part in the ministerial session.

### Meeting Opens

*MB181914 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1730 GMT 18 May 87*

[Report by Radio Mozambique correspondent Ezequiel Mavota on the meeting of foreign ministers of Portuguese-speaking African nations; held in Maputo on 18 May]

[Text] Afonso van Dunem, Angolan minister of external relations and outgoing coordinator of the Portuguese-speaking African countries ministerial council, said at the opening of the meeting that relations among the five countries had grown in a plausible manner. [sentence as heard]

In turn, Mozambican Foreign Affairs Minister Pascoal Mocumbi said that the attendance of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries' distinguished representatives exhibits their will to expand cooperation in various fields. Pascoal Mocumbi stated that this meeting is held under the aegis of unity and common thought among the peoples of Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe. He added that the experience that has been achieved in relations among the five countries shows the path of model cooperation among sovereign states.

Guinea-Bissau Foreign Affairs Minister Julio Semedo spoke on behalf of his nation, Cape Verde, Angola, and Sao Tome and Principe. He stressed that this cooperation must increase even further in the political and diplomatic fields and added that this will be yet another opportunity to strengthen the five nations' knowledge of the international situation. He then reiterated the solidarity of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries with the peoples of East Timor, Namibia, and South Africa.

According to a source connected with the meeting, the agenda includes an analysis of work done since the sixth summit and an analysis of the international situation, especially in southern Africa and East Timor. The meeting will also assess cooperation in the political and diplomatic fields. The ministerial meeting will end on 20 May. The seventh summit of the heads of state of the Portuguese-speaking African countries will follow immediately afterward.

### Foreign Minister Meets With French Counterpart

*MB150945 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 15 May 87*

[Text] Mozambique External Relations Minister Pascoal Mocumbi and French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond met in Paris yesterday. Reports from Paris state that the two ministers discussed the situation in southern Africa. On behalf of President Joaquim Chissano, Minister Pascoal Mocumbi will inaugurate a seminar in support of the SADCC countries. The seminar will be held in Strasbourg.

### Mocumbi Returns Home

*MB160940 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] Mozambique's external relations minister, Pascoal Mocumbi, arrived in Maputo this morning. He attended a seminar in support of the SADCC countries in Strasbourg, France. The seminar also discussed action against apartheid.

### Commerce Minister Returns From Lisbon, Brussels

*MB161737 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] Commerce Minister Aranda da Silva arrived in Maputo this morning after visiting Lisbon and Brussels.

In Lisbon, he attended a seminar on the Beira Corridor, while in Brussels he participated in a meeting of the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Council of Ministers, followed by a meeting with the EEC Council of Ministers within the framework of the Lome III Convention. The meeting also provided an opportunity to evaluate cooperation between Mozambique and the EEC.

[Begin Da Silva recording] We took the opportunity to evaluate bilateral cooperation between the EEC and Mozambique. As you know, one of the projects financed by the EEC is the $40 million Beira Harbor project, which is in the final stages of financial approval. Work is already under way and a public tender is to be held on 21 May, but the financial agreement has not yet been signed since it must be approved by the financial committee in Brussels. We discussed mechanisms to win this approval and an import program the EEC will launch to help Mozambique, especially in the fields of light industry, agriculture, and rural development. [end recording]

## SOUTH AFRICA

### P.W. Botha Addresses Opening of Parliament

*MB191100 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 0900 GMT 19 May 87*

[Address by State President P.W. Botha at the opening of the new session of parliament in Cape Town — live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, honorable members of parliament: Welcome to this fifth session of the eighth parliament of the Republic of South Africa. This session, in many respects, is taking place under changed parliamentary circumstances, because it follows the general election of members of the House of Assembly on 6 May 1987 and changes in the composition of political parties in the House of Delegates and House of Representatives. An election generally has a healthy influence in a democratic community, and therefore it was decided to call that election. In the election, voters were asked to pronounce on, first, the party and leaders which the white voters would entrust with the responsibility of governing the country in the coming years of challenge. Second, they were asked to pronounce on the party and leaders whom they would trust to negotiate in the future with leaders of all communities striving for peaceful deliberation. Third, they were asked to pronounce on the government's security actions to maintain law and order amid the unrest and disruption fanned by revolutionary elements, as well as the protection of our national borders. Fourth, they were asked to express themselves on continuing reform and renewal, with regard to our conuntry's economic, social, and constitutional development. Fifth, they were asked to express themselves on the uplifting of all our country's communities for the sake of justice, thereby as far as possible removing the breeding grounds of revolutionary instigation and activities. Sixth, they were asked to express themselves on the rejection of unpleasant foreign interference, sanctions, and unwanted prescriptions regarding our domestic affairs.

On 6 May the white voters gave a clear decision and decisive mandate and instruction to the House of Assembly and their leaders on each of these issues. This confirms and strengthens the wishes expressed by the voters in the general election of 1981 and the 1983 referendum. First, this support endorses the evolutionary approach followed by the government on South Africa's economic, social, and constitutional development and progress. Second, it confirms the government's point of departure that security, order, and stability in all our communities are preconditions for reform, and that proponents of radicalism and violence will have to renounce that course before they may participate in the constitutional process. Third, it contains a clear endorsement of the view that the groups approach in broadening our democratic system and stabilizing our communities must be accepted. Fourth, it again confirms that South Africans themselves, and not the outside world, have to decided on the country's future.

There was broad acceptance of the reality that South Africa is a country of minorities and of the approach that any future dispensation for South Africa, with its diverse population, must comply at all levels of government with demands for the protection of minority rights and self-determination of groups, the prevention of one group's domination over another, and power sharing by groups on decisionmaking concerning their own community interests and power sharing among groups on general and common interests.

This approach is followed by numerous countries in the world — for example, Great Britain, Belgium, Switzerland, the United States, and West Germany — in ways best suited to their circumstances. It is certainly true that the broadening of democracy in South Africa can be sought in more than one responsible manner. However, the unfortunate truth is that all who use the concept of democracy in relation to South African politics do not employ it in the same sense. For some, it means the real broadening of democracy and the expansion of real freedom, but for others, the word democracy is a disguise for their efforts to enslave South Africa under a communist power clique.

In any country, constitutional change is a serious matter. In light of the demands and challenges posed by the realities of South Africa, this is true to a greater degree in this country. Constitutional development and change must take place in a constitutional manner. The government readily accepts that there are those both inside and outside the present parliamentary system at the central government level who either underwrite or reject the government's policy approaches. There is nothing wrong with this in itself. This freedom is granted to all law-abiding citizens here. What is not acceptable is the fact that certain individuals and groups, in promoting their opposition and attempts to advance alternatives, follow methods and tactics which cannot be accepted in any self-respecting country.

These include actions and tactics which, first of all, do not recognize and accept the lawful and constitutional institutions and processes in South Africa. Second, they include the approval of violence, intimidation, and murder as instruments of political change. Third, they include actions conducted in a way that precludes having the policies and leaders of these groups subjected to the will of the electorate. These categories of political activity, particularly when accompanies by contempt for the country's laws, cannot be tolerated by a responsible government in South Africa.

The fact that certain legal arrangements are not acceptable to some people does not give them the right to break the law.

[Changes to English] Nor can activities of this kind be permitted any longer to be encouraged and or financed by sources outside the country or by their agents here. Throughout the world, there are examples of countries in which the governments have been deposed and the system of government dismantled, ostensibly in the name of creating greater freedom and democracy. Such countries invariably end up in the Soviet sphere of influence. It is ironical that prominent personalities and institutions in leading Western countries have given their financial and moral support in several cases to the destruction of Western allies. Among the more recent examples are Iran and Nicaragua.

The government is aware of efforts and plans in this connection and intends giving its serious attention to them. We shall not permit the constitutional order in South Africa to be subverted in this way. The media in South Africa, too, should guard against instigating and promoting activities of this kind under the guise

of freedom of the press and of expression. Similarly, universities in South Africa should be aware of promoting such elements under the guise of academic freedom. This is not a threat. It is a simple truth.

Constitutional development cannot take place in isolation. It has to be conceded and accompanied by economic and social processes to create the conditions in which the new may be continued on the basis of security. These processes in the widest meaning of the term are directed at the upliftment of our developing community. Indeed, I have emphasized repeatedly in the past that our challenge lies in narrowing the gap between the First World and the Third World without lowering standards in South Africa. In the social sphere, this includes developments through education and training, through improvement of the social environment, the infrastructure, and the living conditions of all of our communities.

In this connection several administrative and legislative measures which will contribute toward further renewal and development in every community will be taken during this session. One of the most important aspects that will receive continued attention will be the provision of land and housing for the purpose of increased home ownership. Since the beginning of the eighties there has been an exceptional effort on the part of the state to promote home ownership, especially among the lower income groups of every community.

In 1986, a major housing plan launched by the state in conjunction with the private sector led to the establishment of a housing trust. A further step was the joint statement issued by the committee of ministers involved with housing and measures to promote home ownership through the sale of houses with assistance from the national housing commission. These measures are directed primarily at the lower income group in all our community. These steps are being taken because home ownership is one of the major pillars of socioeconomic advancement. It constitutes the cornerstone of stable local communities and therefore the major substructure of government at the local authority level.

The evidence of a slight improvement in the employment situation is also gratifying. Nonetheless, the government is proceeding unabated with a special employment creation and training program instituted to assist the unemployed. By March 1987, some 550,000 people had already been provided with training. Over the past few years, the South African economy has undergone a difficult process of adjustment. It is pleasing to note that the moderate but sound recovery supported by appropriate fiscal and monetary policy is now occurring in the economy over a wide front.

The current account of the balance of payments is still in surplus. As a result, it has been possible for the Reserve Bank, after meeting its foreign obligations, to increase its gold and foreign exchange reserves to more comfortable levels. These foreign obligations include the payment of all interest and dividends due, as well as of substantial capital amounts on foreign debts. The wider public sector is liable for almost half of the current foreign debt outstanding and the private sector for the rest of it.

The simultaneous stabilization of the rate of exchange has had a favorable effect on the prices of some imported goods and on the rate of inflation. Although the rate of inflation has declined somewhat in recent months, it remains unacceptably high. The government is fully aware of the negative effects of inflation on the standards of living of the average South African. Consequently, inflation remains one of our country's most unwelcome and, unfortunately, most difficult problems. The particular causs and composition of inflation in our country change continually and are related to a variety of external and internal factors. Although inflation is combated continuously with appropriate monetary, fiscal, and other measures, it remains necessary to tackle and analyze the problem over a wide front from time to time. Therefore, I have already requested the state president's Economy Advisory Council to undertake a thorough investigation of the current situation in respect of inflation, and to report back to me as soon as possible.

There still is considerable pressure from abroad for sanctions, disinvestment, and the withdrawal of loan funds from South Africa. Nonetheless, there are also indications of a growing realization among numerous investors and other financial institutions that South Africa remains a country of substantial possibilities. The equitable debt standstill agreement, which was negotiated with foreign creditors recently, and which will pertain over the next 3 years, confirms the improved foreign outlook on South Africa and further underlines our economic growth potential.

[Change to Afrikaans] Mr Speaker, in our continued dedication to refining the republic's rich natural and human potential and to strive for happiness and progress, the government will also continue with this country's constitutional development. Instituting the new Constitution in 1984 was a great step forward which, at the level of the central government, created structures for self-determination and joint responsibility for white, colored, and Asian communities. Democracy has therefore already been broadened meaningfully, and parliament itself, by its acceptance of further arrangements, has considerably improved the new system. It is the constitutional position of our different black communities, in particular, though, which must receive continued attention.

[Changes to English] In our search for a correct approach,everybody will have to accept that the constitutional development of the black communities is neither hanging in the air nor taking place in a vacuum. It is taking place against the background of our demographic realities, 300 years of constitutional history, the development of established rights, and a broad spectrum of structures which have already been established on every level of government and are in the process of planning and implementation. Over the past decades four self-governing territories have requested independence and received it in a peaceful constitutional manner. The legitimate leaders and representatives of a fifth territory have now requested independence as well. The government will not stand in the way of communities that seek greater autonomy or even independence.

The establishment of independent and autonomous states gave formal structure to multilateral cooperation and consultation in southern Africa. This led to a multilateral development council

of ministers and the secretariat for multilateral cooperation in southern Africa. The Development Bank of Southern Africa, which forms part of this process of interstate cooperation, was established as early as 1984.

In respect of territories which do not accept independence, the government acknowledges that every region and community within its boundaries is part of the South African state with the right of participation by those political entities in the processes and institutions of government as may be agreed upon.

During my opening speech to parliament on 30 January of this year I stated clearly that further clarity on constitutional structures would be possible only if representative leaders of every group and community that reject violence as a political instrument came together in a national institution of recognized status and in which real accountability was possible. It will have to be the result of consultation and negotiation among the leaders of relevant and parties genuinely believing in freedom and democracy. In the process those involved will have to guard against becoming involved in unnecessary controversies about concepts, blueprints, and visions for final solutions. We have to seek and find the guidelines for continued reform in the realities of the group nature of our multicultural society and in the requirements they set for the maintanance of peaceful and stable communities and the prevention of domination.

It is not possible, in a multicultural country like the Republic of South Africa, to talk about the protection of individual rights unless one talks about the protection of minority rights at the same time. In South Africa, as elsewhere in Africa, individual rights can be maintained in a society of diversity only if group rights are guaranteed as well. Second, it is impossible to talk about the protection of minority rights unless one talks about the protection of minority groups at the same time. The rights of a group are inextricably linked to the group.

Third, it is not possible to talk about the protection of minority groups and the prevention of domination unless groups enjoy statutory recognition and the relationship among them is regulated constitutionally.

The purpose is neither to discriminate nor to detract from human dignity. But we simply cannot close our eyes to the hard realities of our circumstances nor to what has happened in similar circumstances elsewhere in the world, nor, for example, to what is happening in Zimbabwe now.

Against this background the government will proceed with negotiations with a view to instituting the envisaged national council, in respect of which a bill was published last year and which will be tabled during this session of parliament.

[Changes to Afrikaans] In the National Council, joint deliberation will be possible on various constitutional proposals, including the possibility of creating a council of state and determining the composition and duties of such a council. I want to focus the attention of the honorable members on Article 93 of the Constitution, which states that the control over and the administration of black affairs rests with the state president. I am at present giving serious attention to methods and instruments through which the state president can become more directly involved in negotiations with black leaders. I will provide more information on this in the near future. The government has a positive message of orderly and evolutionary advancement, in which our realities as well as our ideals are fully taken into account. It is a message that brings peace, freedom, and self-determination to our communities, in a manner that considers the commonality of our society, as well as the individual values and interests of the different communities. At the same time, the government provides assurances that security and safety will be given the highest priority, for without these, there can be no development or progress.

In dealing with our country's problems, there is no place for ill-considered instant solutions born of fear, panic, or surrender. Through dedication, service, devotion, and loyalty to South Africa, the government, together will all those who support these principles [2-second break in reception] the Republic of South Africa.

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God will be with you and support you in your work and deliberations.

I now declare this fifth session of the eighth parliament of the Republic of South Africa [1-second break in reception].

### New Members Reconvene

*MB181737 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1600 GMT 18 May 8*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the House of Assembly, all 178 members were today sworn in. Mr Louis le Grange was reelected as the speaker of parliament. Among them were 61 newly elected MP's and 4 members who were indirectly elected by the various parties. The first group of six who were sworn in were senior members of the cabinet, including Mr F.W. de Klerk, who was reelected as leader of the house. They were followed by six senior members of the Conservative Party, including Dr Andries Treurnicht, who has taken over from Mr Colin Eglin as leader of the opposition.

After all MP's were sworn in, Mr Louis le Grange was reelected as speaker. Mr le Grange was opposed in the electoral college by a Labor Party candidate, Mr Arthur Stanley. [passage omitted]

### House of Delegates Party Loses Defecting Members

*MB181139 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1133 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] Cape Town May 18 SAPA — Eight senior members of the National Peoples Party [NPP], including a member of the Ministers Council, today announced that they had left Dr Amichand Rajbansi's ruling party and would vote for a motion of no confidence in his administration.

Although only some of them are to join the opposition Solidarity Party directly, their votes will mean that Dr J N Reddy, leader of Solidarity, now stands to take over as the majority party in the House of Delegates.

This will leave the state president, Mr P W Botha, with two constitutional options: to dissolve the House of Delegates and call an election; or to reconstitute the Ministers Council under the chairmanship of Dr Reddy.

The men who resigned from the NPP are: Mr Somaroo Pachai, the national chairman of the party; Mr Balded Dookie, minister of local government, housing and agriculture; Mr Palanisamy Devan, national deputy chairman and Natal provincial chairman; Mr Muthusami Thaver, national general secretary; Mr Narantuk Jumuna, national treasurer; Mr Salamuddi Abram, chairman of committee; Mr Ahomed Lambat, and Mr I C Dasoo.

Mr Dookie said he had handed in his resignation to the state president this morning and he, like his colleague, blamed Mr Rajbansi's "dictatorial and undemocratic leadership" for their move.

He said any party whose senior officials resigned had forfeited its right to exist.

Mr Pachai, who acted as spokesman for the group, said he was confident that many other members of the NPP would join the group "in the days ahead."

In a joint statement signed by the group, they said: "We, who are part of the majority party in the House of Delegates, have given serious consideration to our role since the introduction of the tricameral parliament, are now satisfied beyond any doubt that the image projected by the leadership of the National Peoples Party is not conducive to generating wide support from within the ranks of the community.

"Therefore we have decided to relinquish our association with the NPP in order to enable us to pursue a new strategy with honesty and conviction and to remedy the many shortcomings which are the principal cause for the decision that we have taken after much soul-searching.

"Also our role in parliament should not be seen as being parochial, but as one in which we are actively engaged in seeking solutions to national issues which are pressing and urgent and without which there can be no lasting peace.

"Other members with credibility will espouse our course of action in the wider interest of the community."

After the conference, Dr Reddy, who attended as an observer, said the defections were the beginning of a "coming out."

He said he was confident he would succeed with a motion of no confidence in the NPP this week but discounted the likelihood of an election for the House of Delegates.

"These men all feel they have nothing to offer their voters now and they want to have a chance to do something under a new administration before they go to the polls," he said.

Also an election for the House of Delegates could mean that the other two houses would have to go into recess and already there had been a lengthy recess for the House of Assembly election.

The defections mean that with their support, and that of the other opposition members, Solidarity would have a majority of one in the 45 member house.

Mr Pachai said that the decision was the result of long-standing frustration under the leadership of Mr Rajbansi.

"Mr Rajbansi runs the party entirely on his own and he is the sole judge, jury and executioner. There is no room for consensus and discussion on party affairs; or the people we serve.

"With his high-handed, dictatorial manner, Mr Rajbansi made it impossible for me to remain as chairman. It has become impossible for me or my colleagues to have any input for the good of the people."

Mr Lambat said the group had establish a working relationship with Solidarity.

"We may have an independent alliance of like-thinking people."

Mr Dookie said he foresaw the possibility of a new, broad- based force under Solidarity.

In his letter to the state president, Mr Dookie said that since the inception of the House of Delegates, the image of the House had not been enhanced by the behaviour and conduct of "certain" of its leadership.

Consequently he believed that those who were concerned should work towards projecting a new image for the House to win over the support of the majority of the Indian community.

"There are many in the House who are in agreement with my sentiments who will hopefully join me in the challenging task wich lies ahead."

## Paper Claims Election Results Show Shift to Left

*MB160859 Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English 15-21 May 87 p 8*

[By Mark Swillining, political scientist]

[Text] The press got it wrong. The election results did not show that voters shifted to the right. Quite the opposite. By voting in support of the NP's repressive reform option, whites have moved leftward on political reform.

The policies of the Conservative Party in 1987 are virtually identical to those of the National Party in 1981: complete exclusion of Africans from the central political institutions,independence for all "homelands", strict influx control and the linking of urban blacks to bantustans [black tribal homelands]— in short, apartheid. In 1981, just over one in four voted for the same policies, now propounded by the CP.

Liberals forgot that the NP has changed key aspects of its policy. In doing so it moved leftward, split in 1982 and gave birth to an

official opposition to its right in 1987.

The key change in NP policy is on the question of African representation in local, regional and central government. To quote from the NP policy booklet: "...the party is prepared to implement the just participation of all communities in a unique democratic dispensation through negotiations with their leaders on the basis of one citizenship and universal suffrage in a united South Africa...and acknowledges the principle that people should be able to have a political say in the country where they permanently reside and of which they are citizens (ie, South Africa)." Given that citizenship can be restored to all South Africans — including those in "independent homelands" — it follows that it is theoretically possible for all Africans to participate in the same political institutions as whites, coloureds and Indians. This is what the NP refers to as "cooperative co-existence".

The shift to "cooperative coexistence" and away from neo-apartheid in response to the deepening legitimation crisis underlay the NP's shift leftward on the political spectrum. In its place the CP emerged to bear the old apartheid banner.

To identify the place of South Africa's white parliamentary parties on the political spectrum, the traditional categories used by the press must be rejected. As if we have a democratic parliament, we are led to believe there are left (PFP), moderate (NP) and rightwing (CP) parties competing for power. Using internationally acceptable standards to measure political ideology, it would be more accurate to say the white political spectrum stretches from a right liberal wing to an ultra-conservative wing, with right and conservative positions in between. Using these categories to identify the positions of the various parties in 1981 and 1987, we can get a very different picture of white politics than that on offer in the press.

The following conclusions can be drawn:

— Combined ultra-conservative support dropped from 15.5 percent to 3.1 percent, ie by 12.4 percent, as most of this gets absorbed by the conservatives.

— Support for conservative (apartheid) policies dropped from 57 percent to 26.3 percent, ie by 30.7 percent.

— If we assume the CP won 13.9 percent of what was the 1981 NP support base and add this to the 12.4 percent it got from the ultra-conservatives (totalling 26.3 percent), then it means the NP was able to retain 43.1 percent of its support as it moved leftward from a conservative to a right position.

— The NP's rightwing support in 1987, therefore, comprises the 43.1 percent of those who moved with the NP; 5.9 percent of the NRP [New Republic Party] support that remained consistently right and voted NP; and the four percent PFP support that moved rightwards from a right liberal to a right position to vote NP.

In short, the shift across the political spectrum was to the left. Over 40 percent of the NP support-base moved leftwards with the party, 12.4 percent of the ultra-conservative support moved over to vote for a conservative party and a handful of ex-NP supporters moved slightly to the left to vote for the independents. In the end, it was only a handful of liberals who moved rightwards to vote for the NP (no doubt with their tails between their legs).

Why then did the press conclude there was a swing to the right? Because they failed to recognise that the centre stage of white politics has moved leftwards.

Obviously, the content of National Party reform is totally rejected because it is undemocratic, unilateral, militarised and falls far short of nonracialism. However, from the perspective of the average white racist voter whose family has voted for white domination for generations, the NP had irreversibly broken with apartheid. Those who explain this by arguing that whites will vote for whoever they are told to vote for cannot explain why there were such high polls in key constituencies and why voters displayed high levels of discretion, particularly in areas with so-called "New Nat" candidates, all of whose majorities were drastically reduced by the CP. A similar discretionary vote was evident in Helderberg and Randburg.

Another misinterpretation of the election concerns the security issue. For the liberal press, repression and reform are contradictory. A hard security line, the press argued, must mean a swing to the right and "away from the real issues". This displays an ignorance of the repressive reform game plan the state is using. To summarise the "Brazilian option" strategy I have discussed previously in *Weekly Mail*: if genuine reform is going to succeed in restructuring the institutions of political representation and economic participation on terms favourable to the ruling class, extremely tight coercive control of all aspects of government by the security forces will be necessary. The more reform there is, the more coercion will be necessary to counter the revolutionary conditions that result from rising expectations.

In the final analysis, the NP election campaign, with the help of the other parliamentary parties and the press, has provided the state with a parliament legitimation for the repressive option.

## Police Issue Daily Unrest Report for 18 May

*MB190639 Johannesburg SAPA in English*
*0638 GMT 19 May 87*

[Text] Pretoria, May 19, SAPA — Follows the SAP's unrest report for the period 12h01 to 24h00.

"At Dube Railway Station (Soweto), two adult black males were arrested when they stoned a security forces vehicle, while in Orlando, a classroom of the Thulazize High School was damaged by arsonists.

"At Weltevrede, in KwaNdebele, a private vehicle and a private home were damaged by arsonists.

"In Kwamashu, near Durban, a large group of scholars stoned the Vuyiswamtolo High School. They were dispersed with tear-smoke and shotgun fire. No injuries were reported."

## Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB190730 [Editorial Report]

### CITIZEN: West Seeks 'Betrayal' of Whites

A page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 16 May says the West seeks the "betrayal of Whites and Black moderates in South Africa. It wants the same Black majority rule that it foisted on Rhodesia." The West "does not want a Buthelezi in power but a Nelson Mandela or an Oliver Tambo. As for the Whites, it considers them just as expendable as the Whites of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, are." "Fortunately, South Africa is a power house compared with Rhodesia; it has vast resources, an expanding oil from coal industry, it is to exploit gas reserves off Mossel Bay, it has mineral resources that the West needs and cannot find substitutes for, and sanctions will not collapse it. Besides, its government is seeking ways of bringing Blacks into the decision-making process at the highest levels, but without sacrificing minority rights."

### No Political Future for NRP

Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 18 May comments in its page 6 editorial on the New Republic Party [NRP] saying its leader, Bill Sutton, says: "the NRP is engaged in 'two vital negotiations that will have a signal effect on the political future of South Africa.' They are the Kwazulu Natal Indaba [conference seeking Natal's multiracial rule] and the Alliance of Realists (co-sponsored by Chief Cedric Phatudi and Mr Sutton). The NRP would welcome to the alliance any of the new Independents or PFP members, Natal leader, Mr Derrick Waterson, said. It is all a political pipedream, for the NRP can make no further contribution either in an Alliance of Realists or an Alliance of Moderates. Nothing will give it political life, least of all the kiss of alliance politics."

### STAR: 'Constructive' Government Lead Urgent

"From today, with the start of a new session of Parliament in a greatly changed political climate, the Government's ability to meet the challenge of meaningful reform will be tested as never before," remarks a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 18 May. "Rather than overreacting to the symptoms of the serious problems facing the country, the Government should be aiming directly at the underlying causes: the failure to make headway on providing full political rights for blacks; and economic hardship." "We do not have cause for optimism. Nevertheless, the urgency remains for the Government to give the country a new and constructive lead."

### Further Sanctions Unavoidable

"To no one's surprise the Rev Leon Sullivan intends to call for full sanctions, although only last week the former U.S. Ambassador to Pretoria, Mr Herman Nickel, said that sanctions had played into the hands of the right wing," says a second editorial on the same page. "The problem now is that sanctions may have already reached a momentum from which it is easier to accelerate than to brake. Mr Sullivan's threat confirms anti-apartheid forces are likely to squeeze all the harder now because they have adopted a course which has only one direction. This could begin a destructive new cycle of resentment and coercion, with neither side prepared to concede."

### BUSINESS DAY on 'Vital' Role of Business

"Encouraged by an apparently more receptive, reform-minded government at home and increasing pressure from abroad, businessmen became increasingly activist during the last couple of years," notes Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 18 May in a page 4 editorial. "Reformist sentiments in the business community probably took a knock with the perceived success of the state of emergency in reducing unrest." "Business can play a vital role in this by steadfast adherence to the principles they have been espousing. Acceptance that stability is necessary for business to serve its proper purpose in society does not require abandonment of commitment to equity and fairness for black employees, customers and business associates."

### Black Housing Matter for Private Sector

"Government has no answer to the black housing crisis, from the provision of houses to the collection of rents," says a second editorial on the same page. "It would be better for government at all levels to get out of the housing business and hand it over to the private sector. Rent payment and collection would then become a civil matter between tenant and landlord, not another bludgeon in the political fight between the disenfranchised and those they see as their oppressors."

### BUSINESS DAY: Malan To Fight Apartheid

"The burden of reform will now fall on [independent MP Wynand] Malan and those verligtes [enlightened ones] inside the National Party who share his convictions, if not his courage," remarks Ken Owen on page 4 of *Business Day*. "For growth, then, Malan must look to the PFP, whose members he and his side-kicks have been enthusiastically insulting, or to the 400,000 non-Afrikaners in the National Party. The latter, insofar as they are English, will prove to be infertile ground for reformist ideals. They have been torn from their spiritual foundations and now tuck themselves under President Botha's militaristic wing, but they are an unstable lot. They can go in any direction."

### BEELD: Focus on Security, Negotiations

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 18 May says the mandate which the NP acquired focuses on two elements: "to keep South Africa secure, and to open negotiations with black leaders on a shared political future." The editorial points out that the "national government has always made security a priority and the new government will undoubtedly strongly maintain law and order." As for negotiations with black leaders, that is going to be a "long and difficult process," since "suspicion must first be cleared and the fires in the townships put out."

## ZAMBIA

### Kaunda Receives Visiting Iranian, SDAR Envoys

*MB140752 Lusaka Domestic Service in English*
*0600 GMT 14 May 87*

[Text] President Kaunda has told Iran and Iraq to use the resources and energy they are wasting against each other in their war to defeat racism and Zionism instead. Comrade Kaunda, who expressed concern at the continuing war between the two Gulf neighbors, said at State House yesterday that the two states

should fight against what he termed as mankind's real enemies instead of wasting life and property in the war. Speaking when he received a special message from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i from Iran's foreign minister, [title as heard] Mohammad Besharati, the president said the war had become a source of worry because forces which were supposed to (?resolve the) situation in southern Africa and the Middle East were being (?defeated) at an alaraming rate.

And, speaking when a special Saharan envoy who called on him, the president condemned Morocco for its continued resistance to relinquish its hold on the SDAR [Saharan Arab Democratic Republic]. Comrade Kaunda said although Zambia did not hate Morocco, it could not accept what the latter was doing against the Saharan people. He could not understand how a country that was not long ago oppressed by a foreign power could take over a people who ahd been struggling to free themselves. Comrade Kaunda assured the special envoy that Zambia truly supported the people of the SDAR and the Polisario Front.

## ZIMBABWE

### Prime Minister Mugabe Returns From Ethiopia

*MB181730 Harare Domestic Service in English*
*1600 GMT 18 May 87*

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has arrived in Harare after a 4-day official visit to Ethiopia. During his visit, Comrade Mugabe held discussions with Ethiopian Government officials on a wide range of topics, which included the strengthening of relations between Zimbabwe and Ethiopia.

### Annual Export Figures Show 10-Percent Increase

*MB161912 Harare Domestic Service in English*
*0600 GMT 16 May 87*

[Text] The *Financial Gazette* reports that Zimbabwe's total domestic exports reached 1,700 million [Zimbabwe] dollars last year, a 10 percent increase over the previous year. The paper says the [word indistinct] 12 months [word indistinct] trend (?current) surplus for domestic export (?earnings) over overall imports is more than 59 million dollars. According to external trade figures from the Central Statistical Office, flue-cured tobacco sales earned 24 percent of the total export earnings.

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| VII. | WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| VIII. | SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT | Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include:<br>International Affairs<br>Inter-African Affairs<br>Central Africa<br>Burundi<br>Cameroon<br>Central African Republic<br>Congo<br>Equatorial Guinea<br>Gabon<br>Rwanda<br>Sao Tome & Principe<br>Zaire<br>East Africa<br>Djibouti<br>Ethiopia<br>Kenya<br>Somalia<br>Tanzania<br>Uganda<br>Indian Ocean<br>Comoros<br>Madagascar<br>Mauritius<br>Seychelles<br>Southern Africa<br>Angola<br>Botswana<br>Lesotho<br>Malawi<br>Mozambique<br>Namibia<br>Republic of South Africa<br>Reunion<br>Swaziland<br>Zambia<br>Zimbabwe<br>Western Africa<br>Benin<br>Burkina Faso<br>Cape Verde Islands<br>The Gambia<br>Ghana<br>Guinea<br>Guinea-Bissau<br>Ivory Coast<br>Liberia<br>Mali<br>Niger<br>Nigeria<br>Senegal<br>Sierra Leone<br>Togo |

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